



# Quarterly Report

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2025

The Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) is the only organisation in the world dedicated exclusively to the conservation of the endangered Grevy's zebra. Understanding that the species' survival is deeply tied to its coexistence with the people of northern Kenya, we place these communities at the heart of our conservation efforts, partnering with them to safeguard the Grevy's zebra. In every initiative, GZT prioritises using data and information (from both indigenous knowledge and science) to guide our decisions and achieve positive conservation outcomes. Our strategic goals are:

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## **Valuing Grevy's Zebra**

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

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## **Supporting Grevy's Survival**

Immediate threats to Grevy's zebra are mitigated.

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## **Connecting landscapes**

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

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## **Understanding Grevy's Zebra**

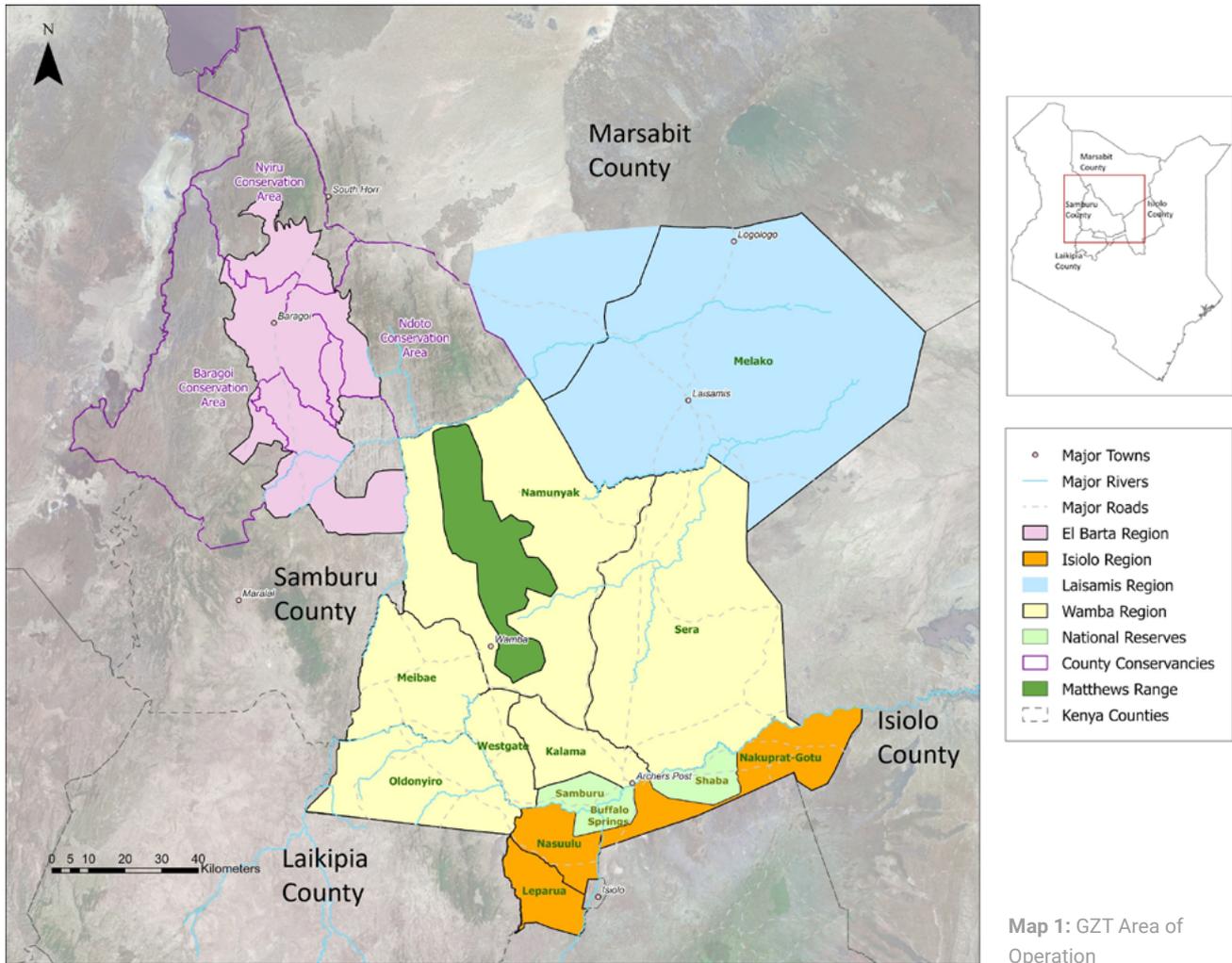
Action is informed by accurate information on Grevy's zebra populations.

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## **Regenerating rangelands**

Healthy rangelands support people, livestock and wildlife.

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Map 1: GZT Area of Operation

## At a Glance

16,338 km walked during foot patrols by Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, Scouts, and Warriors.

35,946 hectares under regenerative grazing with 5,208 cattle.

110 kilograms of grass seed planted across restoration sites.

836 cows and 775 sheep and goats introduced to Grassland Champions' restored sites in the Wamba region to utilise pasture.

34.9% proportion of Grevy's zebra foals and juveniles in the populations monitored through all patrol types, indicating population growth potential.

3,399 semicircular bunds constructed in Wamba and 469 in Laisamis led by GZT's Grassland Champions.

Grass seed sales generated KES 331,500 in proceeds, all of which went directly to women's groups.

1,966 Dignity Packs (reusable sanitary pads) produced and 1,849 distributed to schoolgirls and community women.

# Valuing Grevy's Zebra

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## Nkirreten

The Nkirreten Project had a productive third quarter, successfully implementing its planned activities while responding to new opportunities as they arose. Major accomplishments included the production of 1,966 zebra-striped reusable Dignity Packs, consistent distribution of sewing materials, and menstrual health education sessions with both schools and community groups. The team also hosted four donor visits, which brought additional energy, visibility, and inspiration to the program.

Dignity Packs were distributed to schools and community groups across Isiolo, El Barta, Laisamis, and Wamba. This effort continues to make a tangible difference for girls and women by reducing school absenteeism during menstruation and promoting both menstrual health and conservation awareness.

During International Youth Day celebrations in Archer's Post, some of the Nkirreten women participated in the event, proudly representing GZT. Sintiwan inspired participants and attracted media attention as she spoke about the Nkirreten project and how it has empowered her and fellow women. Her message highlighted the project's impact in promoting women's livelihoods, dignity, and confidence, demonstrating how community empowerment and conservation go hand in hand.



Sintiwan speaking with the press at International Youth Day Celebrations in Archer's Post.

In partnership with Akili Dada, GZT held an outreach session in Mpagas to distribute reusable sanitary pads and engage local women in discussions on menstrual health. Participants expressed strong appreciation for the practical and sustainable solution that reusable pads offer in areas with limited disposal facilities.

## Loip Meetings

Community engagement remained strong through two Loip or women’s meetings, in Lturuya and Lalkaloi villages, attended by two visitors from Bioparc Zoo Doué-la-Fontaine. These meetings created space for cultural exchange and inspiration. Ellen, one of the representatives from Bioparc, who has built a career as a manager in France’s atomic energy sector, encouraged local women to believe in their abilities and pursue their ambitions, messages that deeply resonated with participants.

Table 1: Dignity Packs Distribution

Region	No of Dignity Packs
Isiolo	400
Wamba	500
El Barta	199
Laisamis	650
Nanyuki	100
Total	1,849



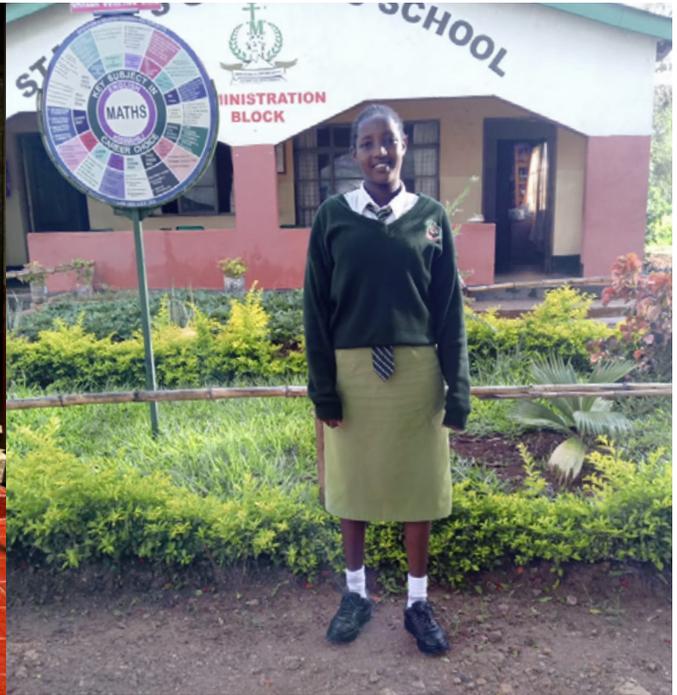
The women who participated in the Lturuya loip holding up Dignity Packs distributed during the meeting.

## Grevy’s Zebra Scholarship Students

The scholarship program continues to support two dedicated students. Grace Leruso, a secondary school student, is preparing to sit for her final exams in November. We are continually encouraged by her consistent effort and focus. Isaac Lenanyie, enrolled in a wildlife management course at the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), reported steady progress through his third semester.



Isaac Lenanyie at WRTI.



Grace Leruso at her secondary school.

“This semester has been transformative, providing me with practical skills, theoretical knowledge, and a deeper appreciation for wildlife conservation. I am eager to apply these skills to future endeavors.”  
Isaac Lenanyie, currently studying at WRTI.”

These scholarships continue to open doors for promising young individuals from local communities, strengthening the link between education and conservation leadership for future generations.

## Women’s Outreach Program

In September, GZT officially launched the Women’s Outreach Program with a vibrant community celebration attended by nearly 100 people. At the heart of this initiative is a new mobile team



Blessing the new vehicle that will facilitate the work of the new Women’s Outreach Program.

comprising women Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Grassland Champions, and the Nkirreten team, who will travel across conservancies to strengthen Grevy's zebra conservation, highlight women's leadership in conservation, and promote peace and coexistence. The event included the blessing of a new vehicle dedicated to the team's outreach work, which was procured thanks to funding from Kevin Beckmann through Saint Louis Zoo. Community members and partners commended the women's leadership and GZT's continued commitment to employing and empowering women in conservation.

### School Outreach

During the quarter, our team conducted school outreach activities in seven schools across Isiolo County and the Oldonyiro area, reaching both primary and secondary school students with a blend of conservation and menstrual health education.



John Lekishe, our Wamba Regional Coordinator, during the Ol Donyiro school visit.

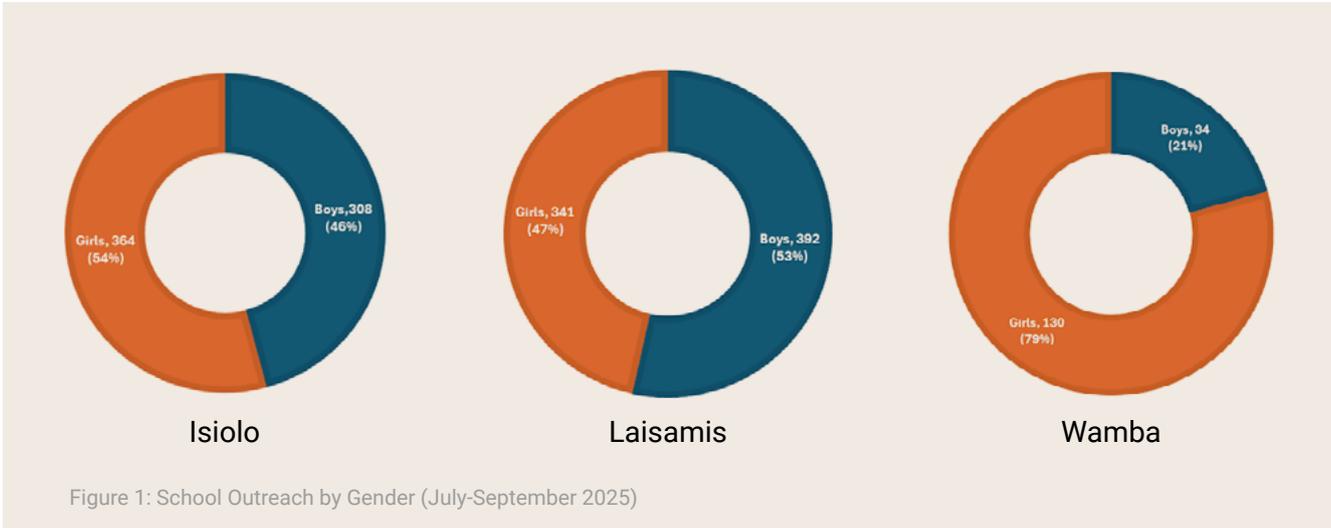


Figure 1: School Outreach by Gender (July-September 2025)

# Understanding Grevy's Zebra

## Rainfall

Grevy's zebra distribution is influenced by rainfall and GZT has rain gauges stationed across the region for a deeper understanding of how this variable affects Grevy's zebra, as well as rangelands productivity. GZT plans to establish additional rain gauge stations in Laisamis and El Barta to strengthen rainfall monitoring coverage across our area of operations.

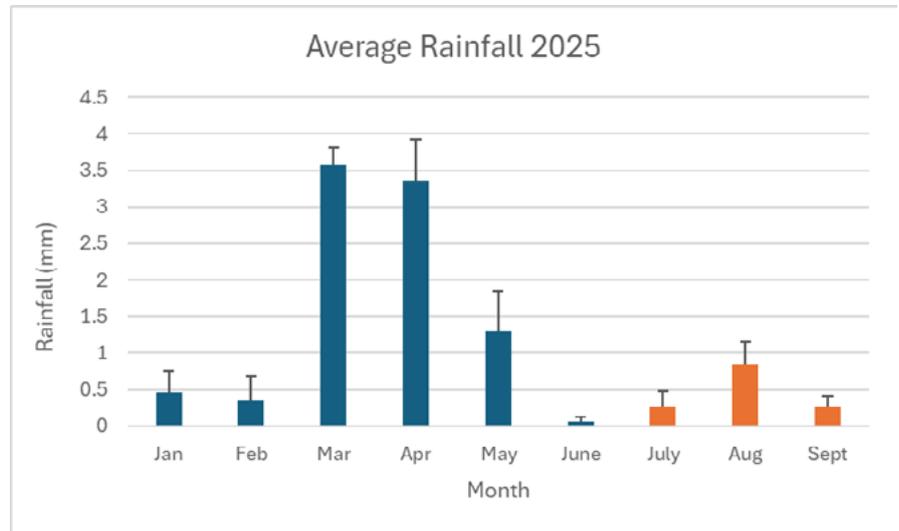
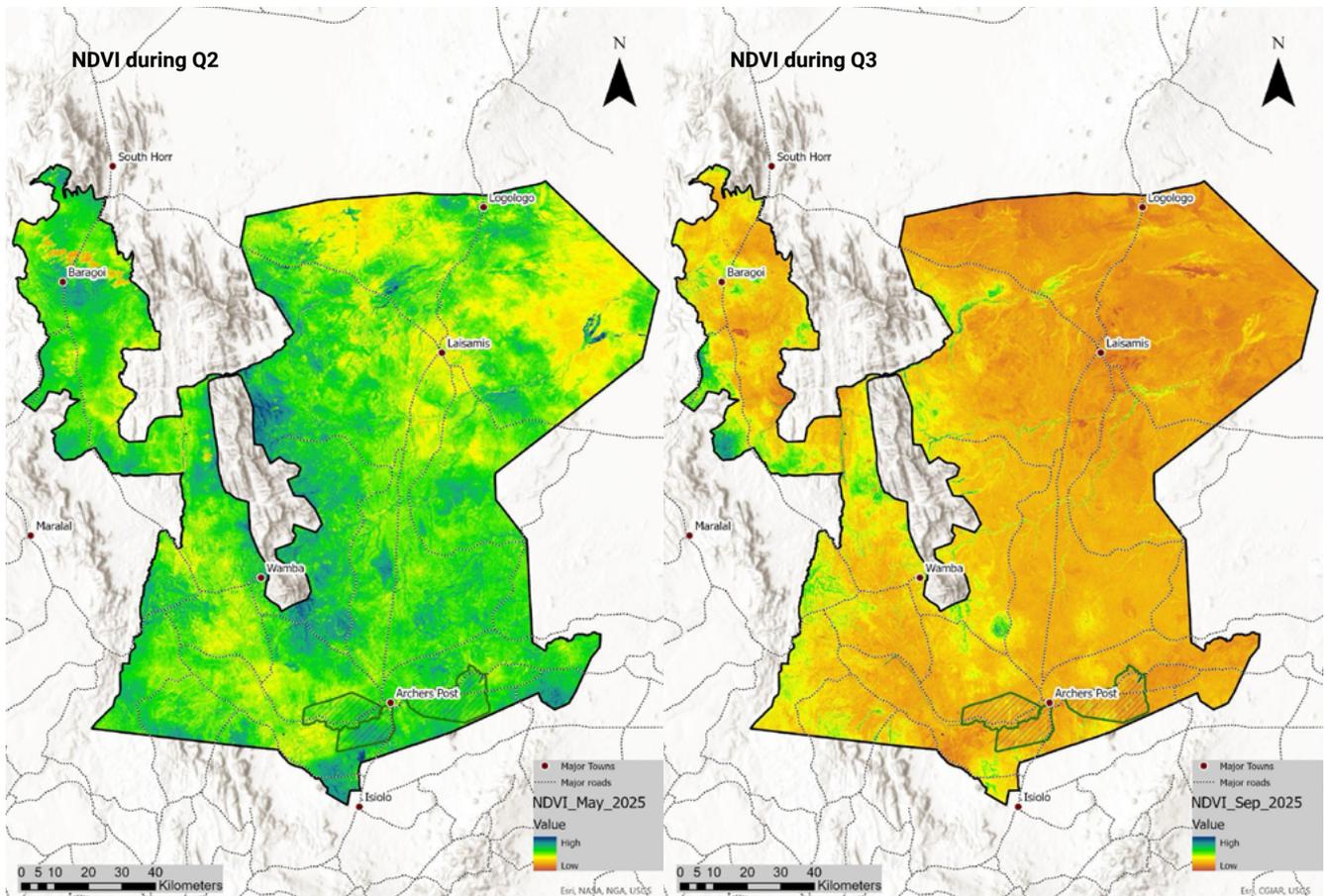


Figure 2: Average Rainfall 2025

## Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

The effects of the long dry season in Q3 across our area of operations were reflected by the relatively lower vegetation productivity, as captured by an analysis of satellite images from the region. While



Map 2: NDVI during Q2 vs. Q3

there were pockets of high productivity in areas of high elevation, most of the landscape exhibited an expected lower NDVI in Q3 compared to the preceding period. This pattern is likely to continue into Q4 if the October to December rainy season is below average as has been forecast. This makes the efforts to preserve current forage through regenerative grazing critical for both livestock and wildlife.

## **Grevy's Zebra Monitoring Patrols**

Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, Scouts, and Warriors continued to play a vital role in monitoring Grevy's zebra populations across their respective landscapes. Through regular patrols, they gather detailed data on Grevy's zebra sightings, group composition, and habitat condition, providing valuable insights into population health and distribution.

In Q3, Grevy's zebra distribution across our area of operations did not vary much compared to Q2. The only exception was an increase in sightings in the Leparua area of Isiolo. We will monitor these patterns over Q4 to ascertain how they change as we move towards a rainy season that is expected to be below average.

Overall, the foal/juvenile to adult ratio, which GZT uses as an indicator of population health (with 30% and above representing a healthy population), showed a decrease from 36% in Q2 to 33% in Q3 with the biggest decrease seen in Laisamis followed by El Barta. However, monitoring during joint patrols (see Table 3) showed high proportions of foals and juveniles observed in the remote areas that are not covered by our teams on foot in these two regions. Based on these combined datasets, this ratio remains stable through the long, dry season.

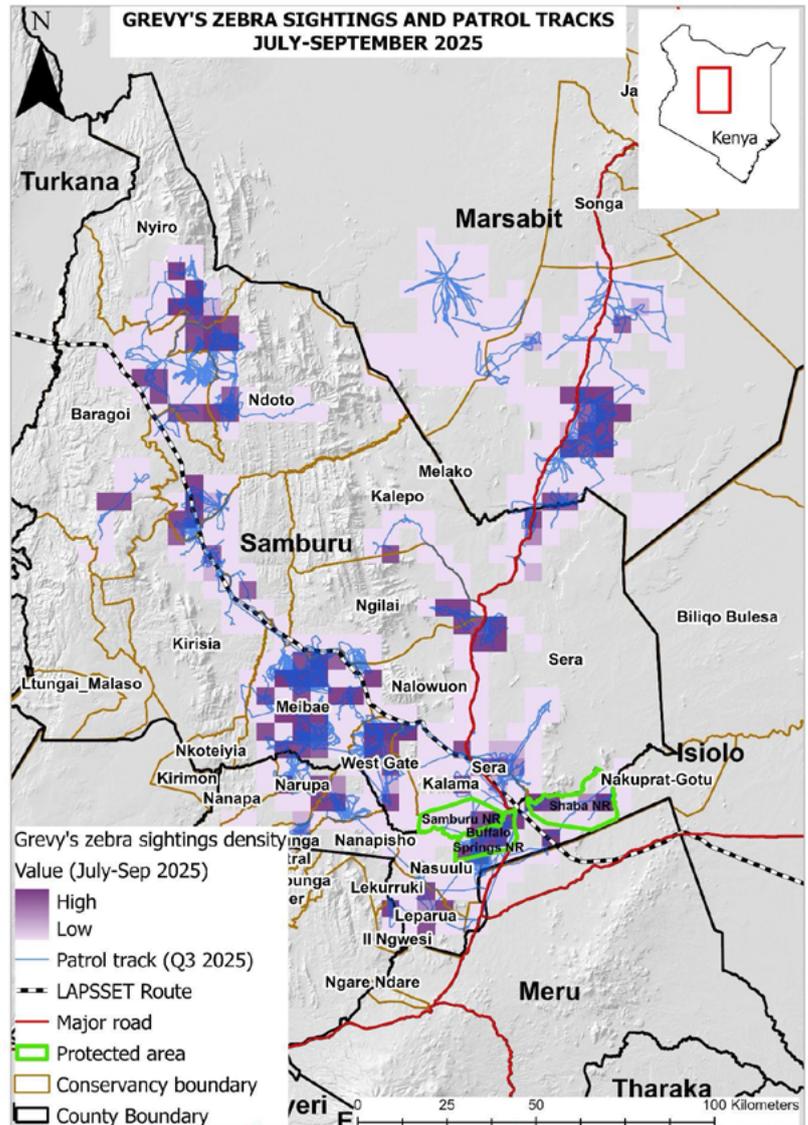


Grevy's Zebra Warriors observing a Grevy's zebra herd on their plateau patrol (Photo Credit: Natalia Mroz).

**Table 2: Grevy's Zebra Ambassador, Scout, and Warrior Patrols**

Metric	Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors	Grevy's Zebra Scouts	Grevy's Zebra Warriors
No. of team members	17	26	10
No. of foot patrols	469 ▲	593 ▲	148 ▼
No. Kms walked	6,115 ▲	7,424 ▼	2,799 ▼
No. Grevy's zebra sightings	1,477 ▲	3,123 ▼	369 ▲
No. Grevy's zebra encounters	187 ▲	423 ▲	82 ▲
Average group size	5	6 ▼	4 ▼
Foal/juvenile adult ratio	38.3% ▼	32.4%	28.5% ▼
Sex ratio (M:F)	1:3 ▼	1:2 ▼	1:1 ▼

▲ Trends compared to the previous quarter  
▼



**Map 3:** Grevy's zebra sightings and patrol tracks. Tracks are from Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Ambassadors and Warriors foot patrols, and from the Isiolo Regional Coordinator and Ecological Monitoring Officers' vehicle patrols (Q3, 2025).

## Joint Patrols

Joint patrols are undertaken with vehicles and alongside our partners, traveling to remote areas that are not covered by our Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Warriors, and Ambassadors. Each Regional Coordinator leads these patrols in their region, recording wildlife distribution and threats, and engaging with communities not otherwise reached by our programs.

**Table 3: Results from Joint Patrols**

Region	El Barta	Laisamis	Wamba	Isiolo
Number of joint patrols	2	1	1	1
Number of days	4	4	3	1
No. of Grevy's zebra seen	63	26	0	150
Kilometers driven	323	294	807	166
M:F ratio	1:5	2:1	0:0	1:1
Foal/juvenile ratio	43%	33%	0%	27%
Partners involved	Nachola and Bendera County Conservancies, rangers of Baragoi Conservation Area	KWS, Melako Conservancy	KWS	Isiolo County Rangers, Nasuulu and Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy Rangers
Number of participants	48	11	14	14



Rangers and GZT staff preparing for the joint patrol (Photo Credit: Franco Ekale Mula)

## Wamba

Results from the joint patrol across Sera Conservancy, Kom, Losesia, Kamanga, and Loowosh Ngare indicated that forage and water sources remain sufficient. However, these areas continue to face significant insecurity, serving as a corridor for conflict and criminal activity involving multiple ethnic groups, which poses serious risks to both wildlife and local communities. Wildlife populations were observed to be low and unevenly distributed, likely due to these ongoing security challenges. Despite these risks, the patrol successfully reinforced collaboration among partners, laying a strong foundation for continued joint efforts and improved security coordination in the future.



Rangers during the joint patrol (Photo Credit: Franco Ekale Mula)

## Isiolo

A four-day joint patrol was carried out in Isiolo County across Shaba and Buffalo Springs National Reserves, and the Nasuulu, Nakuprat-Gotu, and Leparua Community Conservancies. Findings from the patrol indicated average body condition scores of 3.5 for territorial males and 3.0 for lactating females, both of which are within the range of what is considered healthy. Water availability was low as the Ewaso Nyiro River continued to recede, and pasture was under pressure due to livestock influx. Security collaboration made it possible to patrol areas that had previously been inaccessible. High sightings of Grevy's zebra were recorded in Shaba and Nakuprat-Gotu, while fewer were observed in Buffalo Springs. Wildlife poaching incidents were noted around Chaffa Gafarsa, Joy's Camp, and Kashuru.



Grevy's zebra in Shaba National Reserve during the joint patrol. (Photo Credit: Pascal Esekon)

## El Barta

The El Barta joint patrol covered the areas of Kawaup, Nakaluute, Nongera, Lmari, Sikira Plain, and Mputaput, locations recognised as critical habitats for Grevy's zebra and other wildlife species, as well as areas affected by insecurity and human-wildlife pressures.



The joint patrol team in El Barta and some of the Grevy's zebra they encountered, including several foals. (Photo Credit: Joel Loong'onyo)

During the patrol, herds of Grevy's zebra were sighted at Mputaput and Lmari, alongside several other species, including various birdlife. Forage across the area was in very good condition. Patrol teams were also able to monitor collared Grevy's zebra remotely, which allowed for the identification of a collared female at Mputaput, commonly referred to as "the Grevy's zebra's bedroom," whose tracking device was observed to be too tight, indicating the need for collar replacement. In nearly every herd of females encountered, patrol teams recorded a higher number of young individuals compared to adults, with juveniles and foals across all age categories outnumbering adults.

## Laisamis

The joint patrol in Laisamis covered key areas including Koote, Gudas, Soriadi, Charkole, Lkawa, Sengereua, Kumkum, Sirirwa, Kurahathon, and Lchoro. Across the patrol area, the team observed varying condition of forage and water availability, which influenced both livestock and wildlife movements. In some plains, such as Koote and Charkole, forage had been heavily depleted following the wet season due to high livestock concentrations around water pans. As a result, few wildlife species were present in these areas at the time of the patrol.

Further into the patrol, the team recorded a significant sighting of 40 Grevy's zebra, observed through extended foot patrols in an area where forage was in good condition. Other zones, including Laantasimi, Lkawa, and Elem, had healthy vegetation but lacked nearby water sources, which likely contributed to the absence of Grevy's zebra. Instead, large numbers of Grant's gazelle were observed in these locations.

On the final day, the team focused on known wildlife corridors and dry-season refuges. Numerous Grevy's zebra tracks were found leading to and from the Laisamis River, confirming that many Grevy's zebra are using the river as a key water source during dry periods.

# Supporting Grevy's Zebra Survival

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## Water Management

In August, a water management exercise was conducted in Suyian to improve water availability for Grevy's zebra. Two water monitors were engaged to oversee and support the process, ensuring that the water points remained accessible, functional, and reliable for wildlife use. The activity contributed to maintaining essential water sources during the dry season and reinforced ongoing efforts to support habitat management for Grevy's zebra in the area.

"In July, we met with the Waso Rongoi and Loruko communities at the Naisicho River. One key success has been the community-led management of the upstream water source, which has already led to visible improvement in the Naisicho River. The water is flowing more freely again, thanks to settlement relocation and stronger management along the riverbanks. Elders were especially happy to see clean water flowing at this time of year, something that has not happened in a long time.

One of the most inspiring ideas that came up during the meeting was the community's proposal to designate Mputaput as a conservation area for Grevy's zebra. This area is already known as a key hotspot and breeding zone because of its dependable water sources throughout the year. The Naisicho water point was also discussed as an important site for both people and wildlife. The community suggested building a sand dam here to ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for everyone."



Attendees of the meeting stand in the clear water of the Naisicho River.

The meeting concluded with agreements to continue regular community dialogues, define settlement boundaries, and develop a management plan for the Naisicho/Waso Rongai water point."

- Joel Loong'onyo, El Barta Regional Coordinator

## Peace Building

During the quarter, GZT convened four peacebuilding initiatives in El Barta aimed at strengthening relationships within and between communities and reinforcing traditional systems of governance and conflict resolution. These efforts brought together elders and *morans* (warriors) to discuss peace, security, and sustainable land management.

A gathering held in Ndoto brought together people from 10 villages. The meeting engaged the *Lmooli*, the generation that holds traditional authority, to prepare for the upcoming *moran* peace meeting. Elders discussed the need to resolve internal conflicts between clans and age-sets, reaffirm cultural values, and strengthen indigenous mechanisms for conflict resolution.

One elder reflected on the deep link between peace, land, and wildlife, observing that without wildlife, such vital discussions might never take place, illustrating how conservation and peace are closely intertwined within community life.

Later, a peace engagement with Turkana morans and elders was held in Marti, where participants spoke openly about their experiences and aspirations for peace. Elders emphasised that past peace efforts had often fallen short because key participants, particularly influential morans and respected elders, were excluded. They highlighted the importance of holding meetings in settings that encourage open dialogue and participation. The integration of peacebuilding with livestock and land management was particularly appreciated, as it connected peace efforts directly to daily realities and community priorities.



A blessing ceremony was held during the peace meeting in Marti asking for rains to come and refill the Soito Dam for the good of people, livestock, and wildlife.

*Morans* contributed passionately to the discussions, sharing real-life stories of the challenges they face. They made a strong commitment to address internal threats to peace by identifying and confronting the group of people involved in raids, road banditry, and wildlife disturbance. According to the morans, this group, armed but without livestock, poses a significant threat to security and stability. Their collective decision to take responsibility for addressing such challenges within their own ranks marked a major step toward accountability and ownership in the peace process. Participants agreed that consistent engagement and dialogue between Samburu and Turkana morans are essential to building trust and sustaining progress.

The series culminated in a large peace meeting later in the month, which brought together participants from 10 villages across Ndoto, Masikita, and El Barta. The meeting reaffirmed the shared responsibility between generations, with elders guiding and disciplining the morans and the morans managing land and livestock as custodians of community well-being. A key outcome of the meeting

was an agreement for the morans to hold a follow-up session among themselves to develop clear plans for grazing and settlement. Elders proposed that each village contribute one goat for the next joint meeting as a symbol of shared commitment to the peace process.

**The gathering was guided by three core values:**



The meeting concluded with a traditional blessing from the *Lmooli* elders, affirming the role of the next generation of *morans* as protectors and leaders and strengthening the bond between generations. These meetings underscored the power of indigenous systems to foster unity, promote peace, and maintain harmony between people, their land, and wildlife.

### **El Barta Conservation Council (ECC)**

The ECC is a council created by GZT that engages elders, women, and youth on a voluntary basis, creating a network of people working together across two communities in conflict to reduce conflict and build peace.



The ECC cluster meeting held at Kilepoi.

The last quarter ECC meeting introduced a new cluster-based model to improve peacebuilding coordination, with four clusters organized by village proximity to enhance participation and reduce logistical challenges. The Kilepoi gathering proved especially meaningful as Cluster One communities, divided by decades of conflict, experienced emotional reunions. This included two former friends meeting after 30 years, demonstrating how dialogue can restore relationships. The meeting also

showcased youth leadership, particularly through Mr. Nakuret and Ms. Belinda Lemarkat, two of the youngest ECC members, whose collaboration includes sharing early warnings about security threats, underscoring the vital role of young voices in sustaining peace across the region.

**Table 4: Conflict resolution/peace building meetings**

Type of meeting	Location	Number of Target Villages	Elders	Women	Morans	Local Leaders	Total Participants
Intra-community elders' peacebuilding meeting	Lderendei, Ndoto	10	77	0	0	7	84
Turkana Moran peace building meeting	Marti	3	74	0	70	1	145
Samburu moran peace building meeting	Lderendei	10	68	0	79	5	152
ECC Cluster meeting	Kilepoi - Kawuap location	5	5	4	2	0	11
Total			274	4	151	13	392

### Veterinary Interventions

Several field interventions were carried out to address injuries and welfare concerns among Grevy's zebra across different conservancies.

During routine monitoring in the El Barta landscape, it was observed that the collar on Lkotikal, a female Grevy's zebra was tight, posing a potential risk to her wellbeing. The field team acted swiftly to intervene, successfully replacing the collar and ensuring the animal's continued comfort and safety.



The veterinary team working together with Joel Loong'onyo, our El Barta Regional Coordinator, to replace a collar that had become too tight.

**Table 5: Number of Grevy's zebra veterinary interventions July-September 2025**

Date	Age	Sex	Location	Intervention	Outcome	Comment
25/7	Adult	Male	Westgate-Naibelibeli	Treatment	Prognosis is good	Lameness from wounds sustained from a fight
9/8	Adult	Male	Elkarama Conservancy	Treatment	Good diagnosis from vet	Male stallion injured from a suspected fight with another male
11/8	Adult	Male	Buffalo Springs National Reserve	Treatment	Prognosis is good	Injuries of legs
1/9	Adult	Female	Nkokin	Treatment	Prognosis not very promising	Prolonged hoof injuries caused infection
23/9	Adult	Female	Baragoi	De-collaring	Successful collar replacement	The old collar was tight and nearing maximum lifespan, needed replacement
23/9	Foal	Female	Laisamis River	Rescue	Successful transfer to Reteti	Foal missed mother or herd at night at Laisamis river, human/livestock presence led to difficult reunion, resulted in rescue

## Mortality and Injuries

Five Grevy's zebra deaths were recorded across the landscape during this time, attributed to a combination of natural and human-related causes.

A female Grevy's zebra that died of gunshot wounds was shot near herder settlements in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy in Isiolo region. Despite retreating into Shaba National Reserve, she later succumbed to her injuries. This incident occurred in a critical breeding and wildlife area, underscoring the ongoing threats Grevy's zebra face at the interface between wildlife habitats and human activities, and the urgent need for continued community engagement and security collaboration to prevent such losses.

**Table 6: Grevy's Zebra Mortality (July-September 2025)**

Age Class	Sex	Cause of Death
Unidentified	Unidentified	Predation
Adult	Female	Predation
Adult	Male	Disease
Adult	Female	Gunshot
Foal	Female	Predation

# Regenerating Rangelands

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## Wamba Region

In collaboration with Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae Community Conservancies, the rangelands team kick-started regenerative grazing in July through the following activities:

- Conservancies opened grazing blocks reserved for the dry season
- Conservancy grazing committees reviewed budgets to support regenerative grazing
- Regenerative grazing supervisors were identified and trained in holistic land and livestock management (HLLM), forage assessment, and animal handling techniques to ensure that grazing was monitored in a coordinated and sustainable manner

Regenerative grazing during the last quarter brought together a total of 8,258 cattle across the three conservancies, with 5,208 supported by GZT and 3,050 cattle supported by Westgate Conservancy. As it continues, the exercise is successfully accommodating livestock from within and outside the conservancies, demonstrating strong coordination, collaboration, and community engagement. The program continues to foster cohesion among morans and community members, promote efficient resource use, enhance wildlife presence, and significantly reduce livestock migration and conflict over grazing resources.

**Village-Based Committees (VBCs):** At the village level, voluntary VBCs continue to play a key role in implementing grazing plans and driving community action.

Lekiya, a VBC member, noted during a forage assessment exercise at Napiru, “For the longest time, I have looked after livestock in the Napiru block even settling here during the dry season, but I had never seen Grevy’s zebra in this open grassland. After six successful regenerative grazing cycles, here we are: a herd of 35 Grevy’s zebra and even a lactating elephant spotted at Napiru.”



Regenerative grazing in Lesaancha Block.

The program faced several challenges, including increased predation of cattle, high numbers of incoming livestock unfamiliar with established grazing plans, the need for additional support to herders, and limited resources for effective implementation and monitoring.



Healthy cattle in one of the regenerative grazing herds. (Photo Credit: Natalia Mroz)

In response, several targeted meetings were convened to address these issues:

- A GZT-Ewaso Lions partners meeting to develop strategies for reducing predation incidents
- A multi-stakeholder meeting with Ewaso Lions, Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy, and the Kenya Wildlife Service, focused on rangeland governance and lion management
- An elders' meeting at Lpus where disciplinary measures were reinforced after morans attempted to disrupt the exercise.

These efforts highlight the community's and partners' strong commitment to sustaining the regenerative grazing program for the mutual benefit of livestock and wildlife.



A partners meeting with Kalama Community Conservancy, Ewaso Lions, and KWS.

Conservancy surveys were conducted to assess forage availability, livestock and wildlife distribution, and the status of grazing blocks. In Meibae, most livestock were concentrated around Ltirimim, Barsilinga, Nannapa, Namunyak, and nearby highlands. In Kalama and Westgate, grazing and VBCs participated in evaluating pasture utilisation and remaining forage in preparation for the potential October rains. The surveys found sufficient pasture to sustain livestock through the season, although

some encroachment was noted on mountain slopes and in conservation areas. Wildlife presence was evident across many blocks, with elders and *morans* maintaining regular patrols.

Conservancy	Zone	No of Meetings	Elders	Women	Morans	Local Leaders
Kalama	Lolng'ereded	1	24	15	2	1
	Lorubye B	1	12	27	0	0
	Ntilal	1	11	20	0	3
	Lerata A	1	42	0	0	2
	Lderkesi	1	22	20	0	0
Meibae	Lpus zone	1	25	6	0	3
	Mabati zone	1	17	11	0	1
	Silango Nanyekie	1	19	27	0	0
	Lengei zone	1	19	19	0	0
	Lopesuo	1	14	15	0	0
Total		10	205	160	2	10

Conservancy	Elders	Women	Local Leaders
Kalama	24	1	3
Westgate	16	2	1
Meibae	19	3	2
Total	59	6	6

The quarterly grazing committee meetings played a critical role in guiding conservancy-level decision-making. Three meetings were held this quarter to align with ongoing bunching exercises and to set rangeland management priorities. Discussions focused on expanding voluntary restoration sites, controlling livestock encroachment, strengthening grazing committee governance, reviewing buffer zone boundaries in Westgate, and finalising quarterly work plans and budgets. Collectively, these activities reflect the growing strength of local leadership, community commitment, and inter-partner collaboration in promoting regenerative grazing and sustainable land management across the three conservancies.

## Moran Engagements

In collaboration with Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae Community Conservancies, the rangelands team continued to strengthen the role of morans in coordinated grazing management across conservancies. Morans remain central to day-to-day cattle management, particularly in herd mobility and forage utilisation. To enhance their involvement and build their capacity, GZT facilitated eco-literacy trainings and supported their participation in both wet and dry season mobilisation meetings. This ensured the smooth closure and opening of grazing blocks and the establishment of seven foras across the three conservancies, accommodating 14 villages, including herds from neighbouring conservancies. To further promote learning and collaboration, five targeted exposure trips were organised to encourage peer-to-peer knowledge exchange among morans and strengthen their understanding of regenerative grazing practices. These trips facilitated the sharing of local knowledge and success stories while reinforcing the value of regenerative grazing by showcasing visible outcomes in other zones. Morans demonstrated a strong sense of ownership and motivation, emerging as champions of regenerative grazing within their communities and actively mobilising their peers to adopt these practices.



Lopsala Letoole leading an exposure tour of the Lerata morans to the Naisunyai regenerative grazing site.  
(Photo Credit: Lparasian Lalampaa)

**Table 9: Moran exposure visits (July-September 2025)**

Conservancy Zone	Type of Meeting	Elders	Women	Morans	Local Leaders
Kalama Lerata A Zone	Moran exposure tour	17	0	36	1
	Peer-to-peer learning exchange	15	0	35	2
Westgate Naisunyai Zone	Exposure visit to Naisunyai bunching fora	31	7	8	1
	Peer-to-peer learning exchange to the foras	6	0	48	2
	Peer-to-peer learning exchange	15	0	35	2
Meibae Conservancy	Peer-to-peer learning	6	0	22	0
Total		75	7	149	6

## Wamba Women Grassland Champions

The 12 Grassland Champion women actively advanced rangeland restoration and sustainable grazing management through a series of coordinated initiatives across Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae Conservancies, including facilitation of grass plot mobilisation meetings, which serve as the critical first step in the restoration process within voluntary sites.



Community women, including Grassland Champions, at a restoration site building semicircular bunds. (Photo Credit: Natalia Mroz)

To reinforce learning and celebrate progress, GZT supported the Grassland Champions and VBCs in organising restoration progress feedback and showcasing meetings across all three conservancies, which demonstrated tangible progress on soil bund construction, site expansion, invasive species clearance, and improved grass cover and regeneration.



Naamaita Lebayo standing with Toyie, her beloved cow. (Photo Credit: Natalia Mroz)

“My name is Naamaita Lebayo, a VBC member from Sukuroi village, part of the Westgate Community conservancy. I am proud to be one of the women pioneers behind the restoration of a once barren 16-hectare grass plot. Alongside my peers, we employed semicircular bunds structures to control water run-off and reseeded the land with perennial grasses. Slowly, the land began to recover, and life returned.

For us, the joy was always in the little things, knowing that in our own small ways, we were doing something to control the growing land degradation in our village. At the time, I didn't realize that these efforts would one day directly help my own household.”

Like many pastoralists in Northern Kenya,

my family suffered great losses during the 2022 drought. We lost most of our cattle. Only one cow survived, Toyie, my beloved and cherished companion. After the rains, Toyie unfortunately broke her leg, and she had a young calf barely two months old. It was a difficult time. Toyie was in pain, struggling to survive while also caring for her calf and still providing milk for my family. To do all this, she needed both pasture and water.

That's when I truly understood the value of the restoration work we were doing. We introduced Toyie to the restored grass plot, lush with grasses that had grown back. For the past six dry months, Toyie has depended entirely on that plot. My two sons, Leraha and Sapti, who would come to the site every day, became curious about the restoration process and even assisted me as I dug circular bunds. Over this time, Toyie's leg healed, she regained her strength, resumed producing milk, and her calf grew strong and healthy.

One evening, I was at the restoration site with other women, working to expand the area, when my two sons came to drive Toyie home. As I watched them lead her back, my heart was full.

'If there is something I am truly grateful to God for,' I said, 'it's the second chance He gave to Toyie.' Seeing my sons drive her home fills me with joy; it reminds me that they are part of a community that values livestock and land. Just imagine, my own efforts helped save her. I will continue this work and inspire others in the community to join us."

The Grassland Champions also delivered practical training sessions across the three conservancies on the construction of high-quality semicircular bunds for effective water retention, reseeding and seed harvesting techniques for native grasses, the use of animal trampling for seed embedding and soil aeration, clearing invasive species such as *Acacia reficiens*, and integrating eco-literacy to strengthen understanding of ecosystem dynamics.



Women building semicircular bunds at Sukuroi Restoration Site.

**Table 10: Wamba Semicircular Bunds Made, Grass Harvested, and Livestock Introduced Per Site**

Conservancy	Site name	Total Bunds	Total kg grass harvested	Total kg grass reseeded	Total cattle introduced	Total small stock introduced
Meibae	Mabati	44	0	0	118	0
	Nalepo boo	1,130	0	810	250	0
	Lkalakloi	260	0	0	48	0
	Nkiseu	210	0	360	0	160
Kalama	Lorubye	143	2	0	0	0
	Lerata-A	0	0	0	0	0
	Lolngereded	212	27	0	227	0
	Nakuamur	50	16	0	22	0
Westgate	Remot	810	17.5	360	54	400
	Sukuroi	174	10.5	0	7	135
	Naisunyai	256	11	225	110	0
	Kiltamany	110	4	0	0	80
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,399</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,755</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>775</b>



Andy Lekisanyal (Rangelands Manager), Andrew Letura (Ecological Monitoring Officer) and Babylon Letrok (Rangelands Officer) weighing the harvested grass seeds at the GZT camp.

Complementing these activities, the women Grassland Champions held their quarterly meeting to review progress, share challenges, and align on next steps, while continuing community mobilisation meetings to raise awareness and encourage participation in grass plot restoration and protection. They also organised results showcasing meetings to highlight visible successes and inspire wider community buy-in.

“I come from a unique village, Nakwaamur, located on the edge of Kalama Conservancy. Our village borders the Ewaso Nyiro River, one of the most precious rivers in Northern Kenya. On one side of the river lives the Turkana community, and on our side, the Samburu. Over time, we’ve intermarried, yet conflicts still arise between the two communities.

With the support of our conservancy and partners, my community and I have been working hard to restore our degraded rangelands. We’ve established grass plots in our village, and the results have been promising. Because of dry season resource scarcity and insecurity, most livestock have moved to distant dry season grazing blocks. But thanks to our restoration efforts, we were able to keep and feed a herd of 20 cows that were used during wedding ceremonies, and they are still grazing peacefully with enough forage.

What made these events even more special is that one was a marriage between a Turkana and a Samburu family. When both sides came together and visited our restored grass plots, they were amazed at the transformation of the land. Seeing the beautifully decorated cows, marked with ochre, reminded us of our rich culture and the importance of preserving it.



The livestock and grassland that represents the rich culture of Northern Kenya and the importance of preserving it.

We believe that as more such inter-community marriages happen, the tension and conflict between our communities will slowly reduce.

As a team from the village, we were filled with joy to witness how our collective efforts in restoring land can not only bring healing to the environment but also bring people together and strengthen peace through culture.”

– Namayion, GZT Grassland Champion

## **Cost-Benefit Analysis of Semicircular Bunds**

In collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the team conducted focus group discussions and key informant interviews to assess semicircular bunds in Westgate and Meibae conservancies for rangeland restoration and climate adaptation. Findings show benefits outweigh costs over approximately 10 years.

## Key Findings:

- Economic benefits offset initial construction costs through reduced trekking distances, increased herd sizes, improved livestock health, higher milk production, and grass seed sales.
- Financial resilience strengthened as grass seed proceeds fund table banking schemes, providing accessible loans for emergencies and reducing distress livestock sales.
- Nutritional improvements reported by women, with milk from bund-fed cows being more nutritious, particularly benefiting children's health.

One of the women from the Nalepoboo site in Meibae Conservancy explained:

"...With increased milk yield, women no longer have stress in looking for milk to give to their children. Further, the cream we get from the milk is now of high quality. Before the bunds were dug, the cream we got from the milk was watery. So, as the milk quality improves, children are now healthier and gain more weight. Malnutrition is also reduced."



An elders focus group discussion in Meibae Conservancy. (Photo Credit: Andrew Letura)

## Laisamis

The Grassland Champions in Laisamis, a group of 10 men, played a key role in coordinating dry season grazing efforts across multiple villages. Their work resulted in the creation of semicircular bunds and the harvesting of grass. The Lependera area stood out for its integration of livestock into managed grazing systems, introducing cattle into rehabilitated zones. Namarei in particular showcased strong leadership through clear designation of wet and dry season grazing areas. In July, elders gathered for a traditional opening prayer ceremony to mark the re-opening of the Ikerei grazing block after a five-month closure. Supported by GZT, this event symbolized growing community ownership of traditional grazing practices and the strengthening of local governance for effective rangeland management.



Laisamis Grassland Champions during their Q3 team meeting. (Photo Credit: Peter Marleni)

**Table 11: Laisamis Grassland Champions Data**

Site Name	Total Bunds	No. Kg Grass Seed Harvested	Total Cattle Introduced
Kamatonyi	128	10	0
Korr	79	0	0
Lependera	105	10	153
Logologo	0	0	0
Naimarei	157	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>153</b>

**Table 12: Laisamis VBC Meetings**

Area name	Elders	Women	Morans	Local leaders
Lependera	14	4	0	0
Naimarei	19	13	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Table 13: Laisamis Eco-Literacy Trainings**

Area name	Elders	Women	Morans	Local leaders
Naimarei	37	43	27	1
<b>Total</b>				<b>108</b>

## Isiolo

During the third quarter of 2025, three grazing committee meetings were held across the Isiolo region to provide valuable opportunities for committees, elders, and coordinators to review rangeland management progress, strengthen collaboration, and align on sustainable grazing practices that support both pastoral livelihoods and wildlife conservation. Across all three conservancies, grazing committees reaffirmed the effectiveness of structured grazing plans in securing pasture resources and reducing conflict over grazing areas.



Pascal Esekoni, Isiolo Rangelands Coordinator, convening a grazing committee meeting in Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy.

**Table 14: Isiolo Grazing Committee Meetings**

Conservancy	Area	Elders	Women	Morans	Local Leaders	Total
Nasuulu	Loruko zone	6	0	4	3	13
Nakuprat Gotu	Gotu	49	23	23	5	100
Leparua	Kambi Turkana, Elsatrim (Cluster)	9	5	5	1	20
<b>Total</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>133</b>

While progress was evident, the meetings also identified persistent challenges. Insecurity continues to limit mobility and community engagement in some areas, particularly within Nasuulu. Charcoal burning remains a major environmental concern contributing to land degradation and wildfires. In Leparua, water scarcity and disruptions from military activities were also noted as key threats to rangeland management efforts.

Committees across the region committed to strengthening collaboration between conservancies, reinforcing conservation by-laws, and increasing patrols and awareness campaigns on issues such as charcoal burning and livestock encroachment. Restoration activities, including the construction of semicircular bunds, will continue in priority areas, alongside community outreach and herder engagement.

## El Barta

VBC follow-up meetings were held in the Ndoto, El Barta, and Nyiro areas to strengthen coordination on grazing management, resource use, and conservation. Participants reported that livestock had remained settled in agreed grazing areas for the past two months. Communities reaffirmed their commitment to managing natural resources through indigenous systems of governance, prioritising cultural values that promote harmony between people, livestock, and wildlife. Elders also emphasised engaging morans in peace and conservation-focused discussions to reinforce stability and support ongoing management efforts.

The protection of key Grevy's zebra habitats was highlighted throughout the discussions. Reports from Lderendei and surrounding areas noted sightings of Grevy's zebra nursing their young at Lturot, an important breeding zone. In Nyiro, participants proposed designating Mputaput as a dedicated conservation area for Grevy's zebra due to its role as a hotspot and breeding site with reliable water sources.



Joel Loong'onyo leading a community meeting at Lderendei in Ndoto Location.

**Table 15: El Barta VBC Follow-Up Meetings**

Area	Zone	Elders	Morans	Local leaders	Total
Ndoto & El Barta	Lderendei	33	22	5	60
Nyiro	Naisicho	32	22	2	54
Total		55	44	7	114

# Connecting Landscapes

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## Key Study on Value of Grasslands

In collaboration with the Conservation Strategy Fund and through funding from the Dry Creek Foundation, GZT commissioned a study on the economic value of grasslands in our area of operations in 2024. The final draft report of this study was completed this quarter, and will be instrumental in showing the potential economic impact of restoration investments in our region, providing crucial information for infrastructure development efforts looking to implement restoration or biodiversity offsets.

A key highlight from the report was the finding that while both semicircular bunds and regenerative grazing have the potential to provide a high return on investment (ROI), the magnitude of this ROI for regenerative grazing is exponentially higher (21,000% versus 112%) due to the relatively low implementation costs per hectare. This further underscores the importance of our regenerative grazing program for scalability and ecological and economic sustainability.

## A2 Highway

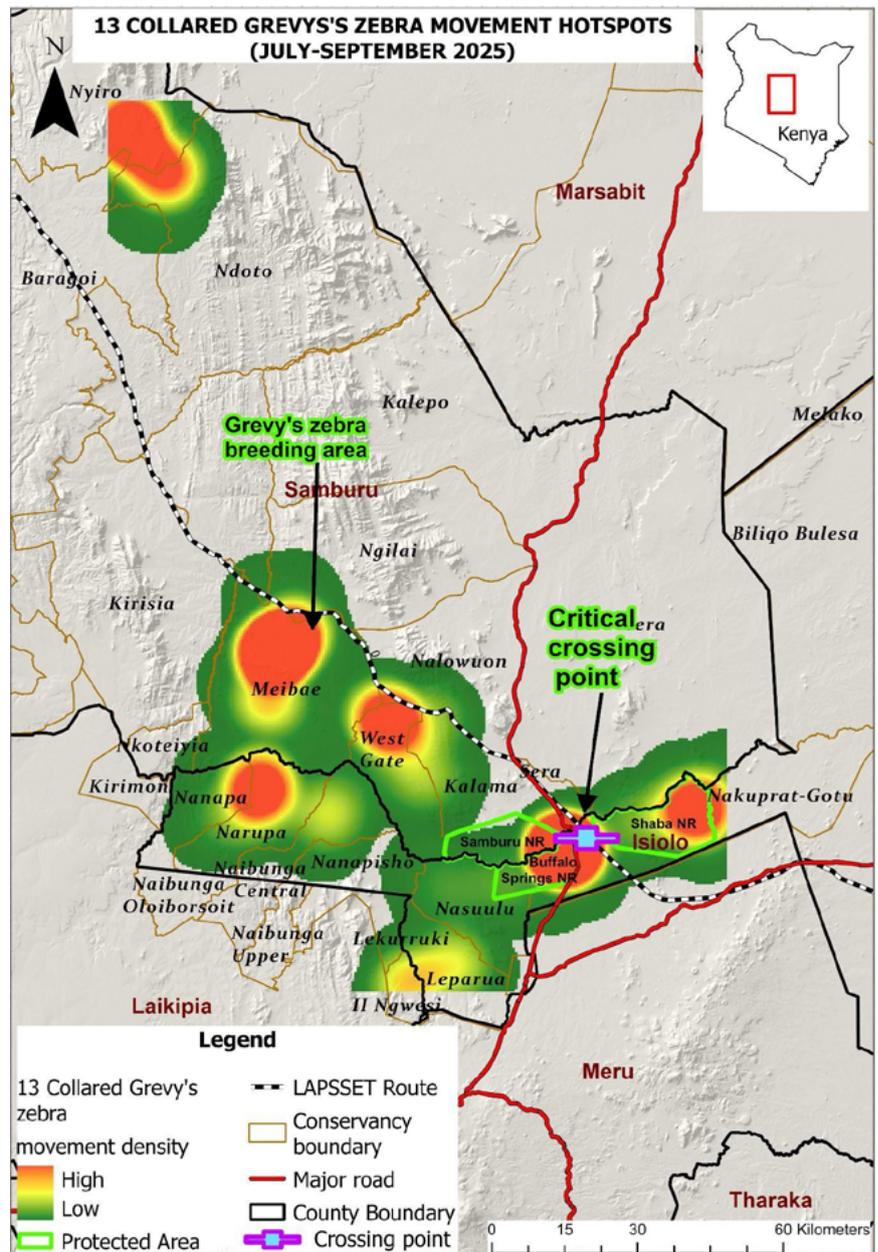
Three cases of wildlife-vehicle collisions were recorded (a jackal, a striped hyena, and a leopard) along the A2 highway, near wildlife crossing points which connect Buffalo Springs and Shaba reserves. Elephants, plains zebra, Grevy's zebra and a lion were also seen crossing the A2 highway along these corridors. Construction of mitigation measures continues to be pursued by the A2 partners.

## Collared Grevy's Zebra



A collared Grevy's zebra during a recent collar tracking. (Photo Credit: Andrew Letura)

Tracking collared Grevy's zebra continues to play a key role in monitoring movements and identifying areas of high concentration. Data from active collars revealed that most Grevy's zebra were located within Meibae Community Conservancy, particularly in the stretch between Lesiteti and Loropili in the Resim zone. The data indicate that during the current dry season, most Grevy's zebra are utilising slightly denser habitats in search of forage, as opposed to the open plains they prefer during wetter periods. However, small herds were still observed in open areas such as Naibelibeli, Leparua Junction, and Buffalo Springs. Overall, land cover in the surveyed areas remains in good condition, with adequate forage availability and sustainable use levels. Grevy's zebra sightings in more open or bare areas were primarily associated with water access points.



Map 4: Collared Grevy's Zebra Movement Hotspots (July-September 2025)

## Other Updates

### New York Climate Week

GZT, represented by our Executive Director, Peter Lalampaa, participated in the 2025 New York Climate Week, providing a valuable platform to share our message that conservation is a climate solution. We highlighted how our work extends beyond species protection to strengthening ecosystem health, enhancing resilience, and supporting local communities to adapt to climate impacts.

Our advocacy during the week focused on the need to devolve climate financing to local communities, emphasising that community-led conservation plays a vital role in addressing climate change,

particularly in areas most affected by it. We called for greater investment from those contributing to climate change to support the communities bearing its greatest impacts.

The event also offered important opportunities to engage with funders and investors. Joining the Jeffrey Talpins Foundation session enabled us to amplify the voice of grassroots organisations and demonstrate the impact of community-led conservation.

A key learning from the week was that indigenous community organisations hosting side events were more effective in attracting funders and resources. Based on this insight, GZT plans to host a side event at the 2026 Climate Week to engage potential funders and strengthen visibility, networking, and partnership opportunities.

Overall, our participation was inspiring and reaffirmed the importance of GZT's role in linking conservation, community resilience, and climate solutions.

## Donor and Partner Visits

We are always grateful to welcome donors and partners to the GZT camp to witness the results we are working together to achieve. This quarter, we enjoyed hosting Bioparc Zoo Doué-la-Fontaine, National Geographic, the Samburu Isiolo Conservation Area (SICA) projects, TNC, World Women Work, and Wildlife Conservation Network.

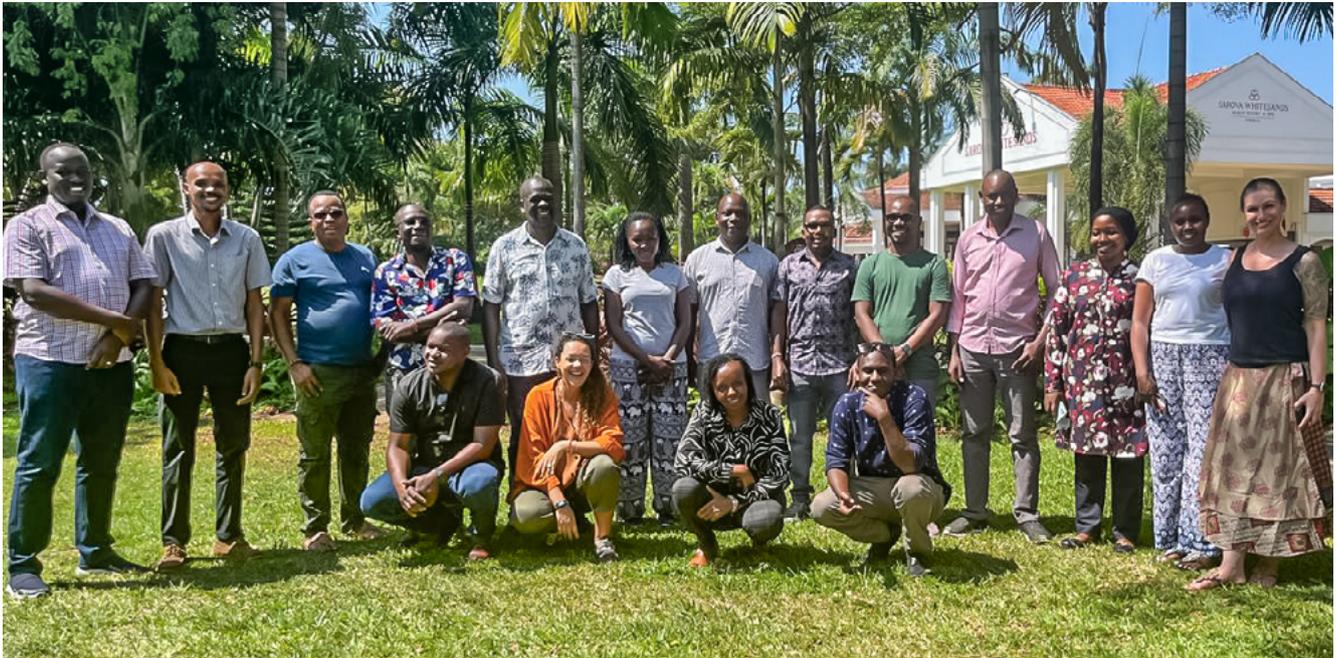


Hosting TNC's monitoring team in Kalama Conservancy to share our rangeland monitoring protocols and visit restoration and bunching sites in Longerdeed.

## Monitoring and Evaluation Handbook Development

TNC and the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association are developing a comprehensive handbook for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL). In August 2025, our Research and Impact team played a pivotal role in a workshop held in Mombasa, where we reviewed and validated nine modules that comprise the MEL handbook. The modules will be used for training MEL and data management

practitioners across Kenya, to build the capacity of conservancies to not only collect, manage, and share quality data, but also to use the collected data as a basis for strategic decision-making. It is hoped that the initiative will, in the long run, strengthen conservancies' ecological and socio-economic data management frameworks and governance systems.



The MEL Module review team at the workshop in Mombasa (Photo Credit: Robert Aswani)

## EarthRanger Training Workshop

EarthRanger is a real-time, data-driven software platform designed for wildlife conservationists to monitor and protect ecosystems and wildlife. A two-day EarthRanger training workshop at Lewa Conservancy offered space to present our work, exchange ideas, and learn about new developments in EarthRanger, including the ecoscope software for dashboard creation. These tools strengthen how we monitor, share, and act for conservation.



Redempta Njeri, our Impact and Learning Manager, presenting at the EarthRanger Training Workshop.



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