



Quarterly Report

JANUARY - MARCH 2026

The Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT) is the only organization 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 prioritizes using data and information (from both indigenous knowledge and science) to guide our decisions and achieve positive conservation outcomes. Our strategic goals are:

Valuing Grevy's Zebra

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

Understanding Grevy's Zebra

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

Supporting Grevy's Survival

Immediate threats to Grevy's zebra are mitigated.

Regenerating rangelands

Healthy rangelands support people, livestock and wildlife.

Connecting landscapes

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

At a Glance

15,128 km walked during foot patrols by Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, Scouts, and Warriors.

180 beehives mounted throughout 12 different sites to support the ecosystem and provide another source of income for communities.

30% proportion of Grevy's zebra foals and juveniles in the populations monitored, indicating population growth potential.

2,584 zebra-striped Dignity Packs (reusable) produced and 1,923 distributed to schoolgirls and community women.

Valuing Grevy's Zebra

Nkirreten

This quarter, the Nkirreten Project team focused on four major agenda items: sanitary pad production and distribution progress updates, women's welfare, sewing machines maintenance, and team building activities. The team supplied reusable Dignity Pack production materials across conservancies and replaced worn-out spare parts on sewing machines.



Women proudly displaying their Dignity Packs at the Loip heald at Sukuroi

Loip, traditional women’s meetings, were held at Naisunyai and Sukuroi. The topics covered included conservation awareness and women’s role in conservation, as well as women’s health, with issues of gender-based violence taking a significant part of the discussion. During many *Loip* meetings, women come with their kids, particularly when schools are closed, and share their meals with the young ones.

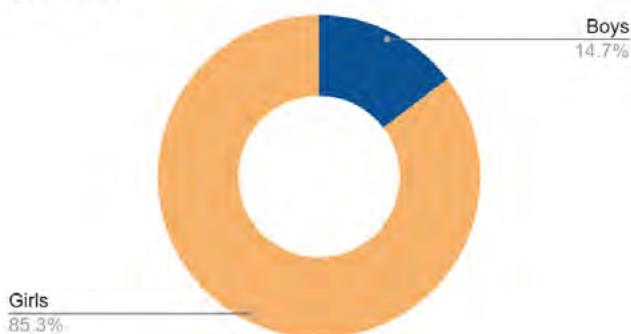
The team also had other opportunities outside of the regular activities to distribute reusable Dignity Packs. On the way from Westgate to Meibae Conservancy, the team met a few young women and non-schooled girls at a watering point along Nagorworu River. They engaged them, provided them with reusable Dignity Packs, and spoke with them about the water situation, wildlife sightings in the area, and the need to share resources with wildlife. In addition, Dignity Packs were distributed to Samburu women during the International Women’s Day celebration at Ngaroni, organised by IMPACT.

School Outreach

Engaging young people in conservation education is essential to securing the long-term future of Grevy’s zebra. Schools provide an opportunity to reach the next generation, equipping them with knowledge about the species, the threats it faces, and the role they can play in its protection. By encouraging awareness and pride in local wildlife from an early age, school outreach helps build a culture of conservation.

School Outreach (Q1 2026)		
Region	Boys	Girls
Baragoi	64	111
Wamba	66	384
Total	130	495

Wamba



Baragoi



School Outreach by Gender (Q1 2026)

School outreach sessions were conducted across a number of schools during the quarter, engaging students on the conservation status of Grevy’s zebra. Sessions covered the history of the species, changes in population over time, their distribution within Kenya and Ethiopia, and the major threats facing Grevy’s zebra, including habitat loss and water scarcity. The importance of peaceful coexistence between communities and wildlife was also discussed, as well as ongoing interventions for the survival of the species. Separate sessions were held for girls, during which menstrual health, personal health, and hygiene were discussed, Dignity Packs were distributed, and stories from the Nkirreten project were shared.



School outreach session at Tipito Girls School



Lesirikan Comprehensive School

While GZT no longer runs an active scholarship program, the legacy of past support continues to be felt within communities. During a feedback session held with the Lesirikan community to share 2025 results, Joel Loong'onyo had a pleasant surprise when a past scholarship recipient, Mama Soniki, was part of the session and offered a firsthand glimpse into the lasting impact the program has had on individuals and their families. Positive testimonies from beneficiary families offered a reminder of the broader benefits that Grevy's zebra conservation can bring to people's lives.



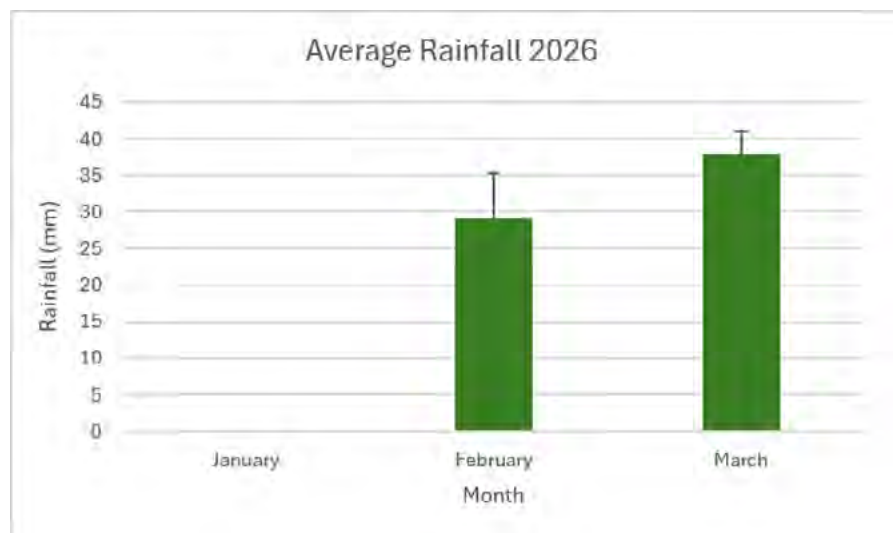
Mama Soniki, a beneficiary of Grevy's Zebra Scholarship

Understanding Grevy's Zebra

This Quarter's Environmental Context

Rainfall

During the first quarter, there was no rainfall in January across all monitored sites. In February, rainfall increased significantly although erratically, with amounts ranging from 7.1 mm at Westgate Naibelibeli to 49.5 mm at Meibae Headquarters. March continued this trend with rainfall levels between approximately 30 mm and nearly 48 mm, indicating the

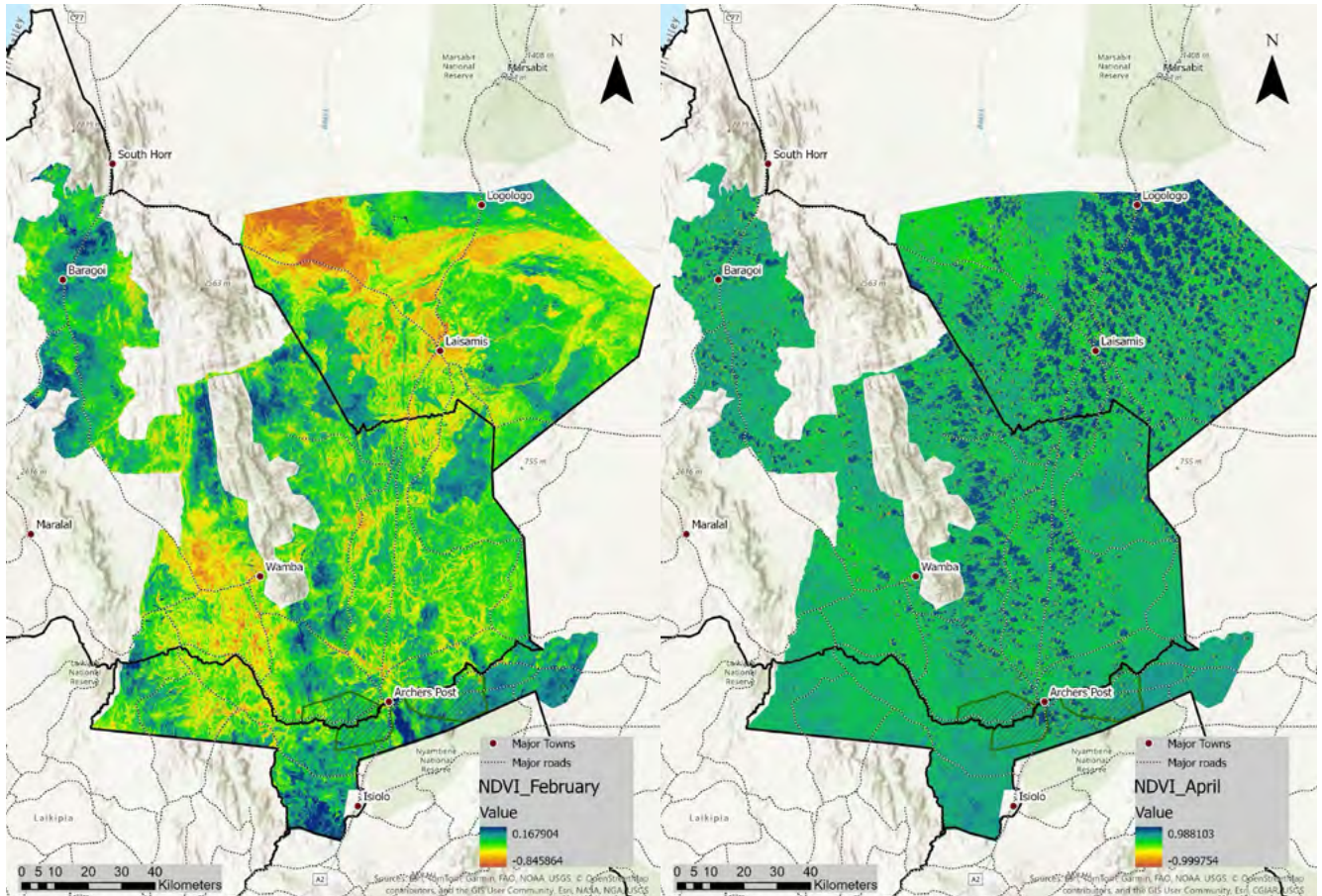


Average Rainfall 2026

onset of the rainy season in the region. This pattern highlights a typical seasonal shift, with increased rainfall from February through March, with the same good conditions set to continue through the second quarter.

Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI)

Satellite image analysis helped corroborate findings from our teams on the ground as well as the rainfall data, showing a steady increase in vegetation productivity from February onward. January and early February imagery showed large pockets of low productivity areas, especially in Laisamis and the western slopes of the Matthews north of Meibae Conservancy. While cloud cover prevented the team from obtaining any usable images in March, we were able to capture partially unobscured imagery at the beginning of April that helps highlight the relatively high productivity forage conditions prevailing across our area of operations.



NDVI in February and April



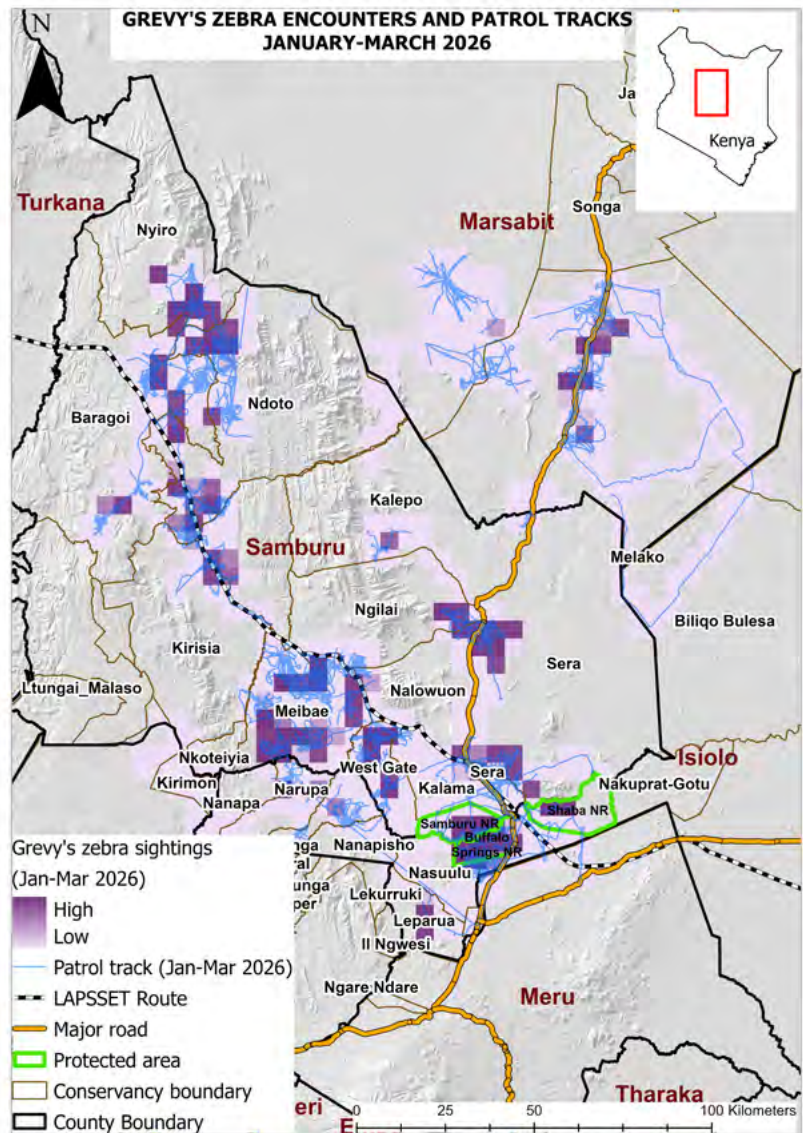
Grevy's zebra seen during El Barta joint patrol

Patrols

During Q1, patrols were conducted across our area of operations with the objective of monitoring Grevy's zebra distribution, assessing body condition, and evaluating the availability of key resources, particularly water and forage, during the peak of the dry season.

Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors, Scouts and Warriors Foot Patrols			
Metric	Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors	Grevy's Zebra Scouts	Grevy's Zebra Warriors
No. of team members	18	26	10
No. of foot patrols	418	597	129
No. kms walked	6135	6781	2212
No. Grevy's zebra sightings	1190	1055	37
No. Grevy's zebra encounters	146	279	15
Average group size	4.0	3.6	2
Foal/juvenile adult ratio	35%	29%	22%
Sex ratio (M:F)	1:2	1:2	3:1

Joint Patrols and Surveys			
Metric	El Barta	Wamba	Isiolo
No. of vehicle patrols	3	1	6
No. kms covered	549	422	969
No. Grevy's zebra sightings	195	16	76
No. Grevy's zebra encounters	20	5	6
Average group size	9.8	3.2	10.6
Body condition rating(1-5)	3.7	4.0	4.0
Foal/juvenile adult ratio	39%	13%	18%
Sex ratio (M:F)	1:2	2:1	1:1



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 (Q1, 2026).

El Barta Region

Dry season assessments and joint patrols were carried out across the El Barta region throughout the quarter, with teams covering a wide range of areas. Grevy's zebra were consistently encountered across these areas, with body condition remaining stable and animals observed in good health, with an average body condition score of 3.65. Grass levels at Sikira Plains were notably strong during February monitoring, with grass growth reaching the belly of the Grevy's zebra.

The quarter brought a mix of challenges and encouraging signs. A significant influx of cattle into the region saw grazing areas extend, while large sections of Lkotikal Plains had been affected by fire in December, reducing available grazing. Water levels at Suyian also declined due to heavy use of shallow wells along the dry riverbeds. However, the March rains brought a welcome change, with patrols conducted shortly after recording significant grass regeneration, particularly at Sikira Plains.

Grevy's zebra were observed in consistent locations across the monthly joint patrols, with no significant movement between patrols noted. In total, 195 Grevy's zebra were recorded across different locations, with a juvenile and foal ratio of 39%. Different groups, including adult and sub-adult

bachelors, lactating and non-lactating females, pregnant females, and juveniles, were observed across various sites, with lactating females concentrated around Mputaput and other groups moving toward the base of Kawaup and Noong'era. A significant concentration of Grevy's zebra was observed in the Mputaput area, largely due to the consistent availability of resources. Fewer small foals were recorded during the quarter, though older foals were present in the populations encountered. The Naisicho River remains a critical water source, complemented by strong community efforts to coordinate grazing plans and manage livestock migration, which have minimised wildlife displacement and supported habitat stability.



Grevy's Zebra Ambassadors and partners during a joint patrol

Wamba Region

The quarter in Wamba region was shaped largely by an incredibly dry season, which influenced the distribution and movement of Grevy's zebra across the conservancies and guided much of the monitoring effort during this period.

Surveys carried out across the Oldonyiro conservancies in January revealed notable shifts in Grevy's zebra distribution in response to the drying conditions, with animals congregating in lower-lying areas where some moisture remained, though water availability there was also limited. The drought survey conducted in February painted a similar picture, with Grevy's zebra tracked across several areas and water scarcity emerging as a central concern, particularly after the Ewaso River dried up completely. Water scarcity for Grevy's zebra during drought periods was also raised as a strong concern by community members during a Scout selection meeting held at Nasuulu Conservancy in February, alongside reports of occasional poaching incidents in the area. Rains later in the quarter led to improvements in water and forage availability throughout the region, leading to improved body condition for both livestock and wildlife.

The Scout selection meeting at Nasuulu Conservancy was a significant moment, with all zones represented alongside conservancy management and local leaders. Lmasalia Lemantile was selected as the newest Grevy's Zebra Scout, having been identified as the preferred candidate by the community and meeting all required qualifications. He joined James Lemaniko Leseketeti from Oldonyiro Narupa Conservancy, who was recruited in November of last year, as they began Grevy's Zebra Scout training, which covers GZT's program, mission, vision, and goals before moving into field training. The field training sessions proved memorable, with the team encountering large numbers of Grevy's zebra at Naibelibeli Plains, including a foal born just hours earlier on the morning of the visit. The new scouts learned to record Grevy's zebra in groups and identify different categories, including foals by age, lactating females, pregnant females, territorial males, and bachelor males.



Observing Grevy's zebra during new Scout training in Naibelibeli

Isiolo Region

The quarter saw significant monitoring and anti-poaching activity across the Isiolo landscape, with both a joint patrol and a dedicated anti-snaring patrol conducted during the period. The anti-snaring patrol, carried out in February within the Shaba-Nakuprat-Gotu-Buffer Springs ecosystem, was implemented through a multi-agency approach bringing together Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Grevy's Zebra Scouts, Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy Rangers, Isiolo County Rangers, Buffalo Springs National Reserve Rangers, National Police Reservists, Local Administration Chiefs, and community elders. Daily activities included foot patrols across wildlife corridors, snare detection surveys, wildlife spoor assessments, habitat condition assessments, and community engagement meetings. Several active snare sites were identified and removed, a wildfire caused by an unmanaged charcoal kiln near a flowing spring was documented, and a high number of active snares were removed along the Buffalo Springs National Reserve boundary, where wildlife including Grevy's zebra, elephants, and giraffes were found to be moving predominantly at night.

The Q1 joint patrol, conducted later in February across Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy, Shaba National Reserve, Buffalo Springs National Reserve, and Nasuulu, took place during a period of light rainfall across much of the landscape. While Grevy's zebra body condition was generally good throughout, the patrol highlighted significant pressures on the landscape, with high levels of encroachment observed across several of the conservation areas, leading to competition for resources between livestock and wildlife. Charcoal burning activities also remained a prevalent concern. Alongside the monitoring of Grevy's zebra, the patrol yielded some notable wildlife observations, including a significant increase in reticulated giraffe sightings across Buffalo Springs National Reserve, Shaba, and parts of Nasuulu, and buffalo were sighted for the first time along the Ngaremara River within Buffalo Springs National Reserve.

Laisamis Region

The quarter's patrol activities in the Laisamis region were shaped from the outset by the drought condition, with plans shifting significantly in response to concerns around water access for Grevy's zebra. The planned partners patrol was replaced with a ground survey assessment to better understand conditions on the ground, and while a Grevy's Zebra Warriors plateau patrol was conducted, it was eventually cut short by the arrival of the rains. These truncated patrols were underscored by reduced Grevy's zebra sightings, which significantly affected both the ratio of males to females seen, as well as the foal and juvenile to adult ratio. These findings suggest large scale movement of lactating females to areas with better pasture, and surveys in Q2 will focus on finding these demographic groups and better rounding out the population snapshot.

Metric	Grevy's Zebra Warriors Plateau Patrols
No. of team members	10
No. of foot patrols	26
No. kms walked	356
No. Grevy's zebra sightings	31
No. Grevy's zebra encounters	7
Average group size	4.4
Body condition rating	4.1
Foal/juvenile adult ratio	23%
Sex ratio (M: F)	1:1

Before going out into the field, the Warriors gathered for their annual workshop, where 2025 work was reviewed in the presence of key partners. The session was a notable moment for the team, with partners expressing admiration at the scope and quality of the Warriors' work. Improvements were recorded across a range of deliverables from the Warriors, including hours worked, distances covered, and community outreach. The Head Chief was so moved by the presentation that he stepped up to translate for the Warriors himself.

Community feedback meetings were also held during the quarter, including a session with the Korr Warriors, whose extraordinary effort in the field was warmly acknowledged by community members. Alongside the recognition, the meeting surfaced important concerns around land degradation, with community members identifying land rehabilitation and recovery as an area requiring greater attention, as well as discussions around planned grazing.

Supporting Grevy's Zebra Survival

Water Management

Water was a defining theme of the quarter across much of the landscape, with the previous rainy season having fallen short of expectations and the dry season that followed proving to be a serious one. Against this backdrop, ensuring reliable water access for Grevy's zebra became a priority, and teams responded with both practical interventions and close monitoring.

A significant activity, especially earlier in the quarter, was the digging of shallow wells in dry river beds, including along the Ewaso River, northern Kenya's primary river. By digging just a few feet below the dry surface, these wells expose water that remains just beneath the riverbed and makes it accessible to both wildlife and livestock. The results were encouraging, with wildlife spoor recorded at the wells confirming that Grevy's zebra and other species were making use of them, though livestock pressure at the sites was also noted as high.



Digging shallow wells in the Ewaso River © Kelsey Kurtis

At Suyian Lugga, community volunteers came together to expand the Grevy's zebra well, which had seen water levels drop significantly. The work involved deeper digging and expansion of the well to ease the daily workload of the water monitors, and two additional community members were brought onto the monitoring team to strengthen maintenance and ensure reliable access going forward. The intervention was made all the more urgent by the pressure being placed on the well by wildlife, particularly elephants, as well as the growing number of Grevy's zebra depending on it.

In the Naisicho River area, water levels were reported to be holding despite intensive pressure from livestock, while the anti-snaring patrol in Isiolo identified the Isiolo River as a critical water source and drought refuge. Across the board, the quarter underscored the importance of proactive water management during periods when the landscape offers little margin for error.

Peace Building

In the El Barta region, intercommunal conflict, often driven by competition over resources, remains one of the most significant threats to the survival of Grevy's zebra. When communities are in conflict, conservation efforts are severely disrupted and the landscape becomes increasingly difficult to manage. Peacebuilding is therefore not a peripheral activity for GZT in this region, but a central one.

The quarter opened with a reduced level of active conflict, which allowed planned engagement activities to proceed. However, water shortages across the region made it difficult to convene Village Based Committee (VBC) meetings, and the team pivoted towards peace meetings as the primary community engagement mechanism, bringing together a wide range of participants including Turkana and Samburu *morans*, elders, youth, peace committees, and national and county government



Peace building meeting held in Turkana

representatives. Discussions centred on the importance of avoiding conflict and protecting community survival systems during the drought period. GZT's consistent investment in peacebuilding was recognised and appreciated by partners, with both the County Government and ChildFund proposing a more coordinated approach going forward. The quarter was not without difficulty, with one meeting marked by a violent confrontation nearby that resulted in a fatality, and a planned joint meeting between Turkana and Samburu *morans* unable to go ahead. Youth engagement sessions also surfaced the important insight that educated and skilled youth have historically been on the margins of peacebuilding efforts, but will be more actively engaged going forward.

A standout moment of the quarter was an intergenerational meeting held in March, which brought together the younger *morans* generation and the elders' generation in a deliberate and strategic effort to bridge the two groups. The thinking behind this approach is rooted in an understanding of one of the underlying drivers of conflict in the region: that elders have not always been playing their role in mentoring and guiding younger *morans*, and that this gap between generations can contribute to the conditions in which conflict takes root. By creating a structured space for the two generations to dialogue directly with one another about peace, the meetings seek to restore that relationship and the responsibilities that come with it.

Drawing on indigenous knowledge systems, the session addressed land and livestock management, conflict prevention, and the distinct roles each generation plays in maintaining peace and stability within the community. The meeting produced immediate, concrete outcomes, including agreement on livestock movement to areas proposed by the elders and a decision to separate small stock from cattle. GZT has seen the positive impact of these types of meetings and is integrating this model of intergenerational engagement more deeply into peace building.

Preparing for Supplementary Feeding

The Laisamis region entered the quarter under the strain of drought, with the Grevy's Zebra Warriors mobilising quickly to assess the situation on the ground. A drought survey was added to the work plan once conditions indicated that it was required, covering Loglogo, Laisamis plateau, Lengima plains, Korr, Merile, and Kamatonyi. The picture that emerged was a concerning one, with most boreholes actively used by livestock and only three recording any trace of Grevy's zebra use. Camera trap images indicated that body condition across much of the Grevy's zebra population was below average, and it became clear that supplementary feeding would be necessary. Hay was stocked up and preparations were made to begin feeding.

Then the rains came. Rainfall arrived just in time, relieving the pressure on the landscape and rendering the planned supplementary feeding unnecessary. The Warriors, who had been preparing to intervene, instead found their plateau patrols cut short by the very rains they had been hoping for. It was a welcome turn of events for the region, and a reminder of how quickly fortunes can change on the landscape. That hay will now be stored for future use.

Veterinary Interventions

During the first quarter of 2026, the Northern Kenya Mobile Vet Unit responded to six emergency Grevy's zebra cases across Isiolo and Samburu, involving both treatment interventions and humane euthanasia for animals with severe injuries. Cases included traumatic fractures caused by spear wounds, gunshot injuries, lameness due to shoulder dislocation, multiple lacerations, and other injuries linked to human-wildlife conflict. Three Grevy's zebra with critical injuries and poor prognosis were euthanized on humane grounds, while three others received treatment with outcomes ranging from favorable to guarded recovery. These interventions highlight the persistent threats facing Grevy's zebra populations in our area of operations, particularly from human-wildlife conflict, insecurity, and physical trauma, while also demonstrating the vital role of the Northern Kenya Mobile Vet Unit in providing rapid veterinary response and welfare support.

Veterinary Interventions (January-March, 2026)						
Date	Age	Wamba	Location	Intervention	Outcome	Comment
06/01	Adult	Male	Ol Donyiro, Isiolo	Euthanasia	Poor prognosis - euthanized on humane grounds	Open compound fracture of the cannon bone
23/01	Adult	Male	Kisima, Samburu	Euthanasia	Poor prognosis - euthanized on humane grounds	Fracture as a result of deep spear wound
28/01	Adult	Female	Buffalo Springs National Reserve, Isiolo	Treatment - rump injury	Prognosis favorable	Human-wildlife conflict
08/03	Adult	Male	Ol Donyiro, Isiolo	Euthanasia	Poor prognosis - euthanized on humane grounds	Gunshot wound to thorax and spine
16/03	Adult	Male	Loijuk, Samburu	Treatment - multiple lacerations	Prognosis guarded	Blindness in both eyes
21/03	Adult	Male	Buffalo Springs National Reserve, Isiolo	Treatment - lameness	Prognosis guarded	Shoulder dislocation

Eight mortalities were recorded in the quarter, of which six were natural causes, primarily predation by lions and unidentified disease. Two mortalities were as a result of gunshot wounds, and we engaged with the KWS to follow up with the communities involved.

Grevy's zebra mortalities (January-March, 2026)					
Cause of death	Means of death/ Age class	Adult	Juvenile	Unidentified	Total
Human causes	Gunshot	1	1	0	2
Natural causes	Birth complications	1	0	0	1
	Disease	2	0	0	2
	Drowning	0	0	1	1
	Predation	3	0	0	3
Total		7	1	1	9



The Northern Kenya Mobile Vet Unit team providing treatment to an injured Grevy's zebra

Regenerating Rangelands

Wamba Region

The Wamba rangelands program entered 2026 on solid footing, with the effective grazing plans implemented in the final quarter of 2025 providing a strong foundation for the year ahead. Work continued across Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae conservancies, with proven approaches being expanded into Naapu Conservancy. The quarter was not without its challenges, however, with below-average rainfall, a significant livestock influx, and government operations in the region all placing pressure on grazing plans and community coordination.

Despite these pressures, communities across the conservancies demonstrated remarkable commitment to their grazing plans, successfully protecting reserved dry season grazing blocks well into the new year. Coordination was maintained throughout the quarter across conservancy management teams, VBCs, grazing committees, *Moran* Councils, and conservancy boards, with remote communication used to keep *Moran* Councils engaged even as a significant number of *morans* moved outside the conservancies. VBC meetings provided ongoing platforms for discussing grazing plans, shared resource management, and rangeland health, with discussions during this quarter focusing heavily on managing the challenges brought on by limited rainfall and emerging scarcity.

The quarter was marked by one particularly devastating event. A human-caused fire broke out in the early hours of the morning at Mount Lowua Werikoi in Naisunyai zone, consuming the vast majority of a mountain that had been carefully protected for three years through regenerative grazing



Mount Lowua Weriko after the fire

plans. The mountain had become a drought refuge, and its loss was deeply felt by the community. Yet the response of community members reflected the resilience and depth of understanding that years of rangeland work had built. Despite the loss, the remaining vegetation continued to support livestock from Naisunyai and neighbouring villages, and the discipline and knowledge the community had developed remained intact. Although approximately 85% of the mountain was lost to fire, the remaining 15% still supported about 950 cattle.

The Grassland Champions continued to drive restoration efforts across Meibae, Kalama, and Westgate conservancies, with semi-circular bund construction progressing well across 12 restoration sites. A wide range of wildlife species were observed utilising the restored areas, including Grevy's zebra. An important lesson emerged during the quarter, however, when askaris at some newer conservancy restoration sites were found to be keeping Grevy's zebra out of the areas, highlighting the need for continued education on the coexistence of Grevy's zebra and rangeland recovery.

Beekeeping

A significant new livelihood initiative was launched during the quarter with the distribution of beehives across the 12 restoration sites in Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae conservancies, supported by The Nature Conservancy. All 12 women Grassland Champions participated in a Training of Trainers session ahead of the distribution, equipping them to lead beekeeping efforts at their sites. As pollinators, bees play a vital role in supporting plant diversity and overall ecosystem health across the restoration sites. The initiative is also intended to diversify income streams for the Grassland Champions alongside grass seed harvesting, and community youth from Remot village demonstrated their investment in the effort by donating additional beehives of their own.



Grassland Champions' beekeeping training

Expansion to Naapu Conservancy

In Naapu Conservancy, the newest area of rangelands interventions, the team began the process of supporting the adoption and scaling of the Grassland Champions model, which has proven effective in Westgate, Kalama, and Meibae. In collaboration with Naapu Conservancy, eco-literacy training was delivered across multiple social groups, with participants including women, elders, and *morans*. The training exceeded its initial targets, and the response from community members reflected both the appetite for this kind of engagement and the difference that awareness-building can make in communities that are newer to conservancy-based rangeland management.

“For the first time as a village, we are trained on how to improve pasture use and understand how the conservancy operates. Decisions are not imposed on us, and we are given clarity to choose what is good for us. Please do not leave us; one day we will be like Westgate”

– Mzee Lolmingani, elder in Naapu Conservancy.

These trainings mark an important step toward building an informed and empowered community that can voluntarily lead grazing planning processes and establish demonstration grass plots. The lessons from these sites are expected to inform broader landscape-level planning.

Laisamis Region

The Laisamis Rangeland Program made significant progress during the first quarter of 2026 through community-led grazing management, restoration activities, and conservation planning across several grazing areas in Marsabit County. Key activities included dry season grazing block surveys, VBC meetings, restoration follow-ups, and support for Grassland Champions. Surveys conducted in Namarei and Logologo found sufficient pasture and healthy wildlife populations, including Grevy's zebra, although water scarcity remained a major challenge due to reliance on boreholes. Five VBC meetings involving over 130 participants strengthened grazing plans, promoted restoration expansion, improved water management, and encouraged collaboration among elders, women, *morans*, and neighboring villages.

Communities demonstrated strong commitment to sustainable rangeland management, with restoration sites mapped across Korr, Lependera, Namarei, Kamatonyi, and Logologo. Despite prolonged dry conditions, planned grazing systems continued to support coexistence between livestock and wildlife, while early wet season planning ensured protection of dry grazing reserves.

Isiolo Region

The activities in Isiolo focused on strengthening community-led rangeland management and restoration through capacity building. A VBC meeting in Nasuulu reviewed progress on addressing environmental threats such as charcoal burning, where community engagement and enforcement measures aimed to lead to reduced activity. The VBC also assessed rangeland health, noting significant improvement following the rains, with increased vegetation, flowing rivers, and improved wildlife presence, including healthy Grevy's zebra populations. Additionally, members were introduced to planned restoration strategies, including invasive species removal and construction of semi-circular bunds, with further capacity building planned through exposure visits.

Complementing this, a benchmarking visit to the Lolngereded pasture production site in Kalama Conservancy provided practical insights into successful pasture development and community-driven conservation. Participants learned about effective techniques such as contour trenching for water harvesting and soil conservation, as well as the importance of early land preparation and governance systems like community fines. The pasture initiative was highlighted as both a resilience mechanism during drought and an income-generating activity through grass seed sales. Overall, these activities emphasized the value of community cohesion, knowledge exchange, and integrated restoration approaches in improving rangeland productivity and supporting sustainable livelihoods.

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.

Connecting Landscapes

The first quarter of 2026 was a foundational one for the Connected Landscapes program, with significant groundwork laid in terms of partnerships, staffing, and on-the-ground interventions. The program is built around a recognition that the long-term survival of Grevy's zebra depends on their ability to move freely across northern Kenya, accessing water and pasture as conditions demand. As climate pressures intensify and development accelerates, maintaining that freedom of movement is becoming increasingly critical.



Grevy's zebra sighted in Naibelibeli

An important early step in the quarter was the coming together of key partners, with an introductory meeting held between the Wyss Academy team and GZT to plan for rangeland health interventions and align shared expectations. This was followed by a joint introductory meeting bringing together the Wyss Academy, GZT, and the Oldonyiro Conservancies at Oldonyiro Primary School, marking the formal beginning of the collaborative relationship in that landscape. Oldonyiro is a strategically important area, serving as a key wildlife movement corridor between Samburu and Laikipia, and the inception meeting and SWOT analysis that followed across the four Oldonyiro conservancy units laid important groundwork for the rangelands program in the area. The process surfaced a clear picture of both the strengths the conservancies can build on, including well-established governance systems and strong partnerships, and the challenges that require attention, including land degradation, water scarcity, weak inter-conservancy coordination, and encroachment.

The quarter also saw the recruitment of the necessary staff, including the Connected Landscapes Manager and a consultant to support the role, ensuring that institutional knowledge is carried forward and applied to the program's delivery. The team is now well positioned to build momentum in the coming quarter across policy engagement, stakeholder relationship building, and community-level rangeland work.

Signage Installed on the A2

A milestone achievement of the quarter was the installation of wildlife awareness signage along the A2 highway, a road that poses a significant collision risk for Grevy's zebra and other wildlife moving across the landscape. The installation was carried out in collaboration with the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), partners, and the community, with signs erected around Kalama Gate in a process that was documented as a historic moment for the conservation effort. While the signage represents an important step forward, it is worth noting that the effectiveness of such signs is significantly enhanced when paired with rumble strips, which were not implemented on this occasion and remain an outstanding need.

Six cases of wildlife collisions were recorded between January and March. These include two genet cats, a caracal, a white tailed mongoose, a spotted hyena, and a silver backed jackal. We continue to monitor the highway to evaluate the effectiveness of the signage installed.



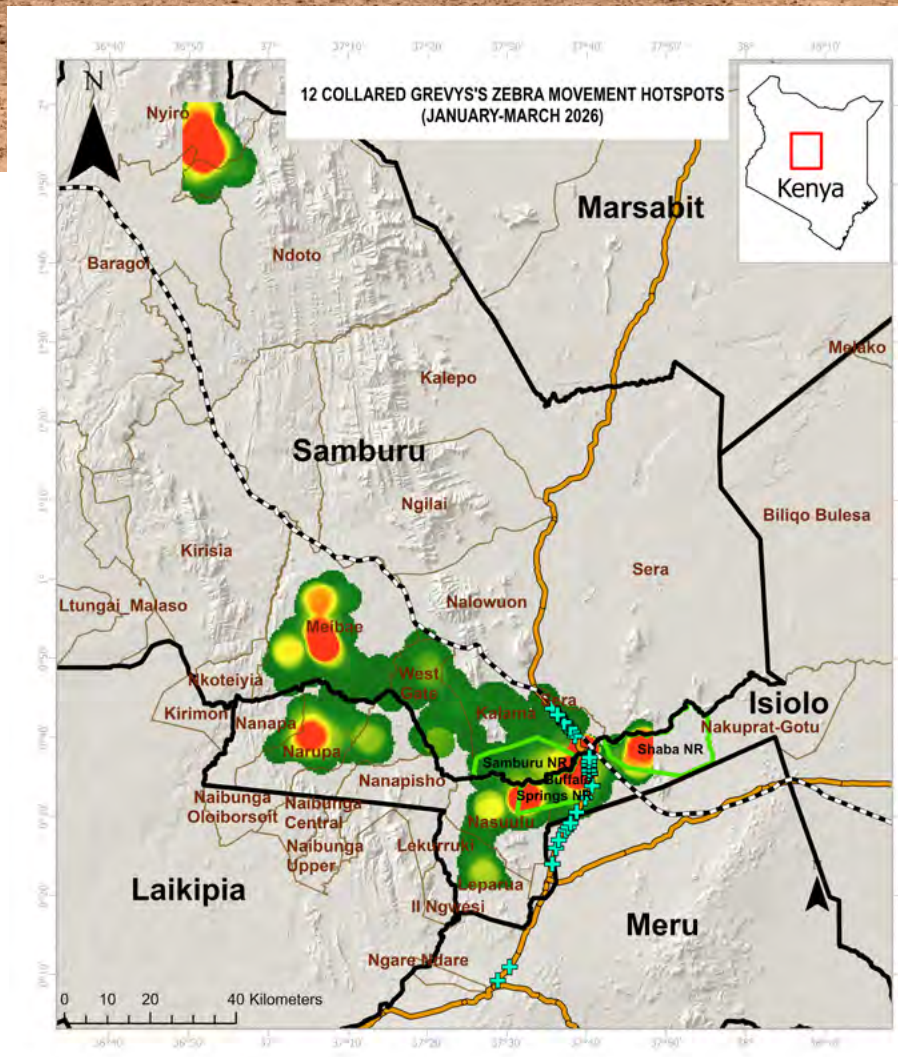
Installation of wildlife awareness signage along the A2 highway

Collared Grevy's Zebra

Collar data collected during January and February painted a picture of a population on the move, with several collared Grevy's zebra shifting away from their usual areas around Barsilinga and spreading across the broader landscape. As the quarter progressed into February, this movement intensified, with more collared individuals recorded within Samburu National Reserve and Buffalo Springs National Reserve, and road crossing activity along the A2 near Choka Gate increasing compared to January. In the El Barta area, one individual expanded its range beyond its previously localised area. Several collars are no longer functioning and will require replacement or removal in the coming period.



Collared Grevy's in the Ewaso River
© Andrew Letura



12 Collared Grevy's zebra movement hotspots (Jan-Mar 2026)

- | | | |
|-------|-------|----------------------|
| Value | + | ▭ |
| High | - - - | Protected area |
| Low | — | Conservancy boundary |

Collared Grevy's Zebra Movement Hotspots (January - March 2026)

Grevy's Zebra Corridor Protection

A significant focus of the quarter was the protection and formalisation of wildlife corridors, with Kalama and Westgate conservancies both convening joint board and grazing meetings to address the long-term security of routes that Grevy's zebra rely on to move across the landscape. Kalama was identified as a critical transit corridor for Grevy's zebra moving between several key conservation areas, and the meetings brought together a broad mix of participants including grazing committees, community land and management committees, conservancy staff, and national government representatives. The action plans that emerged from these meetings were ambitious and far-reaching, pointing toward a multi-stakeholder approach to corridor protection, the development of by-laws to permanently secure corridors, zonal awareness meetings across all villages, and the integration of corridors into conservancy land use plans. This corridor work is closely linked to the rangelands work being implemented across the same landscape, with grazing plans, VBC coordination, and community engagements forming a shared foundation for both.

The corridor conversation extended into the community, with a corridor awareness meeting held at Lowai bringing together community members to discuss the specific routes passing through their area, including settlements and other developments that were blocking or encroaching on them. The meeting produced tangible commitments from community members, including one family agreeing to relocate from the corridor and another committing to paint a permanent structure green to reduce its visual impact on wildlife movement. These small but meaningful acts reflect the kind of community ownership that underpins lasting conservation outcomes.



Other Updates

Hosting Donors and Partners

This quarter, we welcomed different groups of donors and partners for hosting visits, including World Women Work, a TNC board delegation, Maliasili, and Marwell students. These visits offered guests a firsthand look at our work on the ground, deepening their connection to our mission and the wildlife and communities we serve. Hosting these partners at camp continues to be a powerful stewardship tool, strengthening relationships and inspiring ongoing investment in our work.



Hosting Singer Rankin, founder of World Women Work, along with her granddaughter and friends. © Kelsey Kurtis

International Zebra Day


We hosted a marquee event at camp to mark International Zebra Day, welcoming the Governor of Samburu alongside other guests for a celebration of our conservation mission. The event provided a powerful platform to showcase our work across all strategic pillars, from wildlife protection to community livelihoods, helping attendees connect with the critical role Grevy's zebra conservation plays in the broader ecosystem. The Governor's attendance underscored the importance of our work at the highest levels of county leadership and strengthened our relationship with local government as a key partner in conservation.




International Zebra Day activities


Conclusion

The quarter highlighted the strength of community-driven rangeland management systems, even under challenging environmental conditions. The ability of communities to adapt grazing plans, protect critical resources, and sustain restoration efforts reflects growing ownership and improved understanding of sustainable rangeland practices. As an organisation, we remain committed to supporting these community-led efforts and look forward to building on the momentum of this quarter in the months ahead.

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