



FROM THE FIELD

LATEST IMPACT UPDATES FROM OUR GREAT PLAINS INITIATIVES

Q2 IMPACT REPORT | APRIL - JUNE 2022

Great Plains Foundation continues its work focusing on Community & Conservation through a diversity of projects supporting ecosystem restoration, education, gender equality, clean energy and endangered wildlife protection. This quarter saw the preparation phase of moving 3,000 animals across Zimbabwe under Project Rewild Zambezi, our Female Rangers undergoing their extensive training in Botswana, the official take-over of the Big Cat Initiative, another community bridge built in the Masai Mara and the continuous planting of indigenous trees. Our Project Ranger relief fund continues to support antipoaching units across Africa recovering from the impacts of Covid-19.

CONSERVATION

Biodiversity • Healthy Ecosystem • Endangered Species



PROJECT REWILD ZAMBEZI

Relocating over 3,000 animals across Zimbabwe from an overpopulated area to an underpopulated area

Project Rewild Zambezi is Great Plains' most ambitious project to date; moving over 3,000 animals (including 400 elephants, lions, buffalo, wild dog and more) from South East Zimbabwe to the Sapi Reserve on the Zambezi River. Phase One was busy with ground assessments and preparations well underway, repairing river crossings and smoothing and widening nearly 50 miles (80kms) of roads so that 30-ton trucks carrying the first herds of wildlife can travel safely. This quarter the team successfully collared 10 Sapi resident elephant cows to track their movements when relocated herds arrive and to support Human Wildlife Coexistence. Other preparations include extensive camera trap survey of the resident wildlife in Sapi in partnership with WildCru and ZimParks. Q3 will see the first elephants and impala begin their journey from Savé to Sapi.

[READ MORE](#)



This Quarter we have raised over a million dollars to support the relocation, but that is just the beginning. The budget for this ambitious project, which includes the relocations as well as the monitoring and anti-poaching support is \$5.5 million. Help support Project Rewild Zambezi.

[DONATE TO SUPPORT](#)

80 KM OF THE RELOCATION ROUTE REINFORCED
3 RIVER CROSSINGS REPAIRED **10 ELEPHANTS COLLARED**

FEMALE RANGERS

Establishing the first all-female ranger team in Botswana for women's empowerment and wildlife conservation.



The employment and training of female rangers from rural communities on the fringe of the Okavango Delta has begun. Phase one is in motion – seven local Motswana ladies, the Unit Leaders, selected from a large pool of enthusiastic applicants and have begun their six-month training programme.



"I consider myself as a protector. I want to be someone who makes sure the wildlife is being protected from threats like poaching, being able to collect vital information about endangered species and their habits for our future generations"

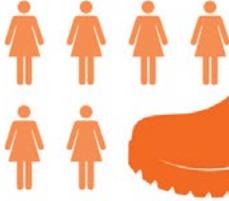
– Female Ranger, One

"When I speak to young girls in my community I tell them that hard works pays off and they have to believe in themselves and also do self-motivation because when you motivate yourself you will have courage/ high self esteem."

Female Ranger, Lady B

The ladies have each undergone 558 hours of training so far in 3 months, totalling 3,906 hours in total, including computer literacy, nature wilderness training, vehicle maintenance, First Aid and patrol and de-snaring training. The team is thriving and the trainers have commented that the support the women show for each others learning and development is extraordinary.

[READ MORE](#)

OUR FEMALE RANGERS
together have undergone  **3,906**  **HOURS**
OF TRAINING 

RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS

Protecting the endangered rhinoceros through security and monitoring.



As always, the monitoring of rhinos continues to be our priority, with our teams working around the clock patrolling and checking on their wards. We welcomed 2 new calves to the herd in the last three months, a girl and a boy!

One of our rhino rangers, Tumelo, employed through the initiative led by Ride Botswana in collaboration with Tracker Academy furthered his education in joining the Female Rangers on the month long Nature Guide Training Course. He passed with flying colours and made us very proud. We look to him to be the bridge between our Female Ranger teams and the Rhino Monitoring Teams.



RWB Rangers out in the field, including Tumelo from the Ride Botswana/ Tracker Academy initiative.

A great achievement speaking to the passion and dedication of our team was the de-snaring operation that was held in the last week of June. This operation was led on the ground by our very own RWB Ranger, Poster Malongwa, together with the support of other NGO's and field personnel and in collaboration with government departments. The teams removed a total of 108 snares from the Khwai and Mababe area.

2 NEW RHINOS
born in the wild!



108 SNARES



REMOVED THROUGH COLLABORATION

BIG CAT INITIATIVE

Grant-making to scalable projects to prevent and reverse the decline of big cats.



We are excited to announce that as of June 2022 the National Geographic Society's Big Cats Initiative (BCI) is now the Great Plains Big Cats Initiative! BCI was founded by National Geographic, in partnership with Dereck and Beverly Joubert as Explorers-at-Large, over a decade ago. BCI's aim was to halt the decline of big cats in the wild and to raise awareness of the threats big cats were facing. In its decade of work as part of National Geographic, BCI made a substantial impact in big cat conservation. Now, the program will transition to the Great Plains Big Cats Initiative under the Jouberts' leadership and management.

[READ MORE](#)

[ARTICLE FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC](#)

CONSERVATION ROOTS

Planting indigenous trees in Kenya to protect the ecosystem's resilience to climate change.



Planting trees takes more time and attention to detail than you might imagine, good thing we have Paul! Expert horticulturalist Paul Kimau manages Great Plains' Conservation Roots program overseeing everything from the collection of indigenous seeds to the establishment of nurseries where the seeds are nurtured, and the planting process. Some trees species, like Warburgia Ugandensis, the Greenheart Tree, spend more than 18 months in Paul's nurseries before being planted in the wild.

Each stage of Conservation Roots takes dedication from the team. In the last few months, we opened a new nursery at ol Donyo Lodge in the Chyulu Hills to join our 4 nurseries in the Masai Mara. The total number of indigenous seedlings being nurtured in our nurseries is 1,332. The total number of seedlings that were planted was 242.



A guest who planted an Acacia Kirkii on May 29th left a remark to say "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to help regenerate the landscape for future generations and animals to enjoy. We truly appreciate all that Great Plains do and are so grateful"

1,322 SEEDLINGS GROWING IN THE NURSERIES
242 NEW INDIGENOUS TREES HAVE BEEN PLANTED

PROJECT RANGER



Distributing funding to NGOs across Africa specialising in anti-poaching.

Project Ranger Grantee

BUMI HILLS APU, ZIMBABWE

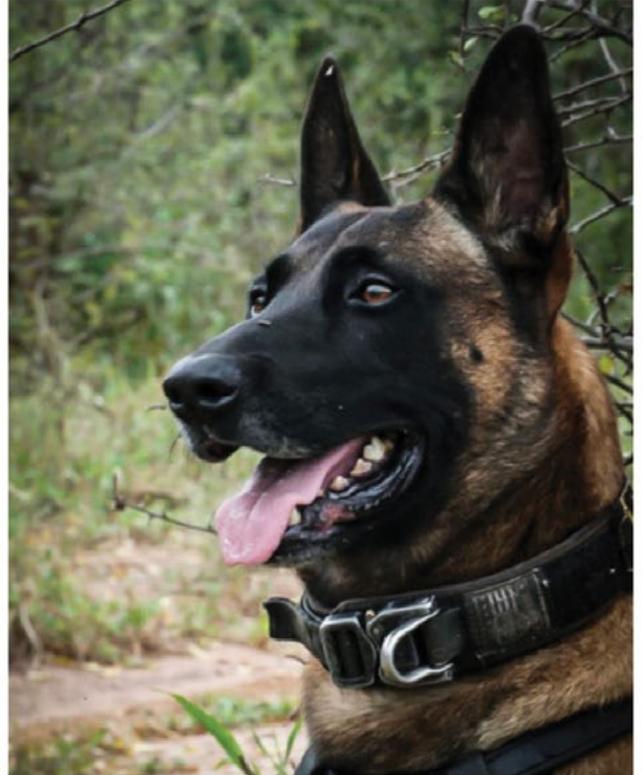


The grant supporting Bumi Hills in the Lake Kariba area of Zimbabwe has continued through Q2. Over 5,822km were patrolled this quarter with 14 snare recoveries, 19 fishing nets recovered (totalling 9,752m of net), with 3 arrests made. Bumi Hills operation continues successfully with 0 poaching reports. Good news was also shared of new healthy lion populations in the area and the team were able to dart and remove a snare off a young buffalo.

5,822KM PATROLLED  **3 ARRESTS MADE** 

 **14 SNARES RECOVERED** 

ANTI-POACHING TRACKING SPECIALISTS, ZIMBABWE



The dedicated Anti-poaching Tracking Specialist rangers, handlers and K9s patrol the Savé Valley Conservancy in Zimbabwe, collecting snares and patrolling for illegal incidents. In May alone, the K9 team recovered 103 snares, with K9 'Senuko' successfully recovering 25 of those. There is positive news of new calves as a result of the hard work of ATS.

103 **SNARES
REMOVED
IN MAY**

ENDUIMET, TANZANIA

The Enduimet Wildlife Management Area rangers and the dedicated management staff, are playing an integral role in the protection of wildlife, wildlife habitats and other natural resources in the greater Amboseli-Kilimanjaro Ecosystem. The team of rangers patrolled 25,108km in total in Q2 with 11 successful arrests made.



"We convey our sincere gratitude to Great Plains Conservation Foundation for a continuous support to our conservation efforts that aim to protect wildlife, nature and improve livelihoods of the local communities of Enduimet in general."

MOTHER AFRICA TRUST, ZIMBABWE



Project Ranger supports Mother Africa in training, salaries, communications and supplies. This quarter supported a full training course for 8 new rangers, 3 female and 5 male. The training included physical fitness, kit inspections, field patrol techniques, operational security, conservation ethics and teamwork. Planning sessions involved effective patrolling to control threats, field navigation techniques and wildlife identification and monitoring. The training also involved conservation laws and arresting procedures with crime scene management and tracking techniques.



ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME INVESTIGATE CENTRE, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CONGO

Project Ranger has continued to support the establishment of the ECIC Intelligence Fusion Centre in the DRC, through the Maisha group. This funding has supported infrastructure, technology, and staff training to bolster the investigative teams ability to independently investigate, apprehend and prosecute significant illegal wildlife trade syndicates operating from DRC. During the course of this quarter, several important DNA samples were collected off tusks apprehended in large seizures in the DRC.

BUSHLIFE CONSERVANCY, ZIMBABWE

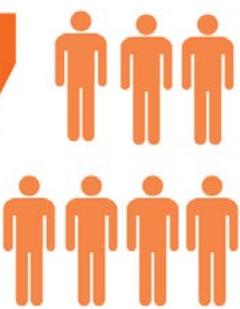
The Project Ranger grant for Bushlife provided the start-up funding for setting up Bushlife's Mana East base. The grant included rations, salaries and equipment such as uniforms, boots, binoculars and bedrolls.



With the setup supported, the team were able to do extensive work on road access as well as continuous patrols.

"We are grateful for your generous support and look forward to continuing the work to protect this vulnerable habitat in partnership with Great Plains Conservation Foundation."

– Beth Brock, Bushlife.

7  **ANTIPOACHING
UNIT SALARIES
SUPPORTED**

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EDUCATION • EMPOWERMENT • WELFARE



BUILDING BRIDGES

Building reliable bridges for communities to cross rivers safely in the Masai Mara for school, medical care, food markets and more.

The success of the first 2 bridges built in 2022, we have just completed the build of the third. Our Kenya team, in collaboration with Bridging the Gap Africa, have built a 40m (131ft) suspended footbridge at Nkoilale village over the Ormeroe River in aid of Nkoilale School.



Over 700 children who commute back and forth from Nkoilale school are now able to safely access education without interruption and over 4,000 community members will benefit; in particular women can now access maternity services even during rainy season when the river is fast flowing. They can also have reliable access to the market to sell their beadwork, produce and other products. We are now looking to plant indigenous trees, through our Conservation Roots program, adjacent to the bridge to protect the riverine vegetation.

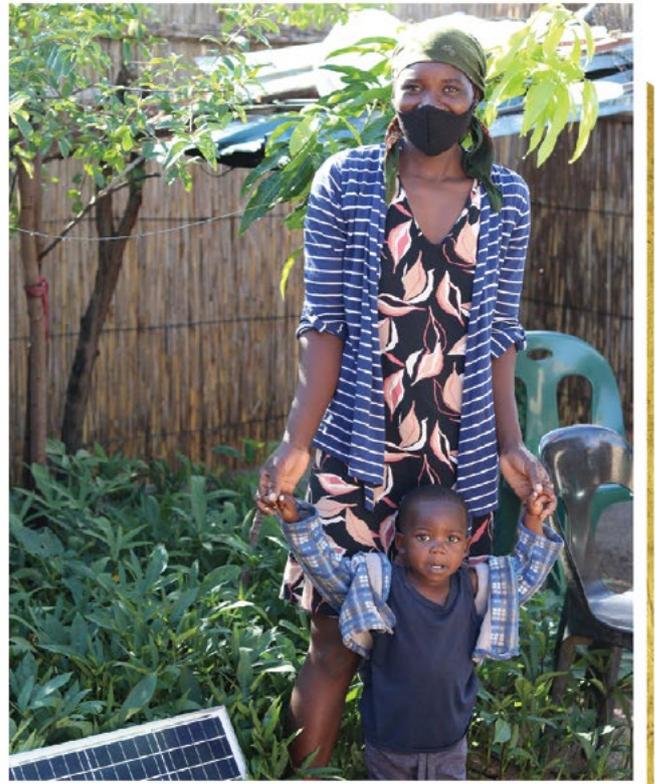
[READ MORE](#)

“In the past children would have to miss school during the rainy season when the water levels were dangerously high, now they can continue their education without interruption”.



SOLAR MAMAS

Supporting women's empowerment and bringing safe and sustainable power to off-grid families in rural Botswana



The Solar Mamas have continued to improve their businesses this quarter and have sold all their solar systems to community beneficiaries. Their work has focused on installing these units in the community households and checking in on their beneficiaries to make sure all the units are working well. 200 additional solar systems have been bought and delivered to Maun and are now en route to Seronga for distribution and installation by the Solar Mamas. The Solar Mamas are also installing the solar systems that have been donated to destitute households in the villages.

HEAR FROM THE FAMILIES BENEFITTING FROM THE SOLAR MAMA PROJECT

200



NEW UNITS HAVE ARRIVED AND READY FOR THE SOLAR MAMAS TO INSTALL



FUNDING TEACHERS' SALARIES

Funding salaries of teachers to support education.



Education is a force for change, in particular in rural communities. On the Mbirikani Group Ranch in the Amboseli region, Great Plains continues to support the salaries of 23 teachers across 16 schools. These teachers are essential to the education system and through funding their salaries, the project directly supports 6,490 students, including 3,089 girls. Great Plains partners with local community groups to implement its projects because working together creates real, lasting change. Konee, Community Liaison in Kenya, visited the schools to check in with the teachers and understand school needs.



23 teachers 
salaries funded,
supporting 6,490 
school children's education

CONSERVATION CAMP WITH THE MAA TRUST

Conservation Education camps for the youth in the Masai Mara



In April 2022 Great Plains funded The Maa Trust Conservation Holiday Camp at Talek Primary as part of our Conservation Education programming. These Conservation Camps, held 3 times a year, aim to protect vulnerable youth during school holidays by engaging them in conservation and social-themed activities to increase their self-confidence and skills. This Conservation Camps, supporting 43 scholarship students, focused on snake safety, swimming skills and wildlife behaviour. Funding the camp includes boarding materials (sanitary packages, bedding etc), learning materials, all food, logistics, vehicles and more.

43

scholarship school kids attended Conservation Camp in the Mara.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

Supporting school meals boosts education, progress and opportunity



In many schools, kids are only in class for half of the day as they leave at lunch time to go home to eat, therefore missing the afternoon classes. Providing lunch meals for the school children increases their education time and their progress. Great Plains has set up the School Meal Program.



In the Masai Mara, Great Plains facilitates a grant from some wonderful pasts guests of Mara Plains to provide meals for 90 of the youngest learners at Margaret Kenyatta Olkuroto Primary School with 2 meals a day. Great Plains is now expanding the project into schools in the Amboseli Region, having recently launched a new program in Mbirikani Group Ranch near ol Donyo Lodge providing school meals for over 8,000 children.

“We are so grateful as kids haven’t missed one meal for even a single day since you started sponsoring it.”

– Mr Ntirra, Headmaster of Margaret Kenyatta Olkuroto Primary School

90  **supported with**
school kids  **2 meals**
a day.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Great Plains guests donating educational supplies to local schools



The Kenya team distributed 10kg of school supply items to Kalesirua Primary School in May. The pupils between ages of 8-12 years old received a donation including footballs, English Dictionaries, story books, assorted stationery including paper writing pads and pens, colouring pencils, drawing pads, children’s games and toys. Kalesirua Primary School is part of our Teacher Salary program with 2 of their teachers supported, so the connections with the school, it’s needs and the beneficiaries is long standing with Great Plains.

“We are glad to work with Great Plains and look forward to using the items donated”

- Daniel Ole Kele, Deputy Head Teacher at Kalesirua Primary

READ MORE

10KG  **OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES DONATED TO KALESIRUA PRIMARY SCHOOL**  

GREAT PLAINS MARA CAMPS guests contributed **\$1,060**  in income to communities through community visits

GREEN HEART OF GREAT PLAINS

Minimise Negative Impact • Maximise Positive Impact



ON-SITE VEGETABLE GARDENS

Growing on-site vegetables in our Farm to Fork initiative



Our camps in Kenya have on-site vegetable gardens, nurtured by the chefs and teams to deliver the freshest vegetables and herbs possible. In some cases your leafy greens travel only 8m from the patch to the plate! Our Relais & Chateaux accredited cuisine is constantly innovating ways to be more environmentally friendly and locally sourced vegetables reduce huge amounts of transport emissions.

FOOD WASTE TO COMPOST

Composting food waste into compost to donate to community projects.



As we are constantly looking at how we can improve we have introduced in-camp bokashi systems to increase the time waste can stay in bins before entering the composter. This will reduce transport of waste to the composter while accelerating the composting process. Even the sacks that we package up the compost in are made locally. A total of 4,450 kgs of compost was created this quarter making 75 bags of compost, 60 have already been distributed to community projects.



60 BAGS DONATED TO COMMUNITY PROJECTS

UPCYCLE WASTE GLASS

Crushing waste glass into sand to create building blocks for communities



With the success of our first Glass Crushing Depot, we set out to establish another one, this time in the heart of one of our partner communities Seronga, on the fringe of the Okavango Delta. This aims to bring glass crushing activities closer to the area of impact in the local communities and reduce transportation costs of moving the building bricks. We built the Glass Crushing depot out of recycled materials from the safari camps in the spirit of upcycling. We are essentially creating a raw material of sand from the glass crusher and welcome local businesses who use sand to reach out.

The plan is for this depot to crush glass to sand and then partner with a local brick building business run by a woman to build bricks for community buildings such as classrooms in schools.

"Glass sand can be used for so many things is it possible to consider diversifying and mold tiles and other products from glass sand " Dineo Ranaka, a waste clean-up picker from Matshwanewho who delivers glass she collects to our depot in Maun.

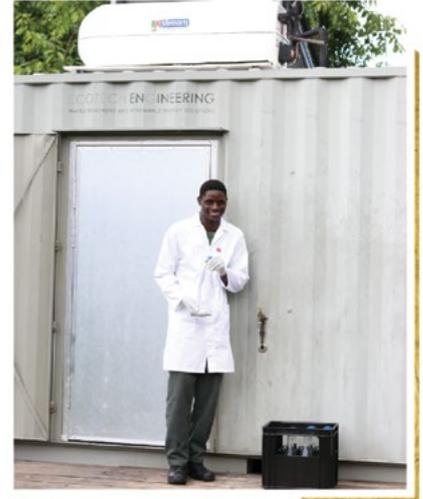


ON-SITE WATER PLANTS

Onsite bottling plants reducing single-use plastic



Our high-tech bottling plants, located in the heart of our remote safari camps, have processed the highest record of water so far. The plant creates both sparkling and still water, reducing the importing of water, the single-use plastic this involves, and the transport impact of the water. When you drink our Great Plains water you are reducing your impact on the environment!



7,532  **litres of safe drinking water processed**

25,107  **PLASTIC BOTTLES AVOIDED**



WWW.GREATPLAINSFOUNDATION.COM | INFO@GREATPLAINSFOUNDATION.COM



Twitter



Facebook



Pinterest



YouTube



Instagram