



Habitat Restoration for Hirola kicks off in Eastern Kenya

This month has been busy for our team as we focused our efforts on habitat restoration in selected conservancies across the hirola's geographic range. In an effort to restore the intensely and already degraded rangelands within the hirola's geographical range, the hirola conservation programme and in partnership with Utah State University (USU) embarked on a long-term rangeland restoration project that involves 1) the physical cutting, uprooting or breaking of branches in an attempt to restore grassland at scales of hundreds of hectares in prioritized areas within the hirola range, 2) the planting of native grass seeds alongside fertilizer (manure) at scales of hundreds of hectares, 3) community-based protection of elephants (in the form of anti-poaching squads and enhanced communication between villages) to encourage elephant herds to reside on community land.



Video



Up close encounters with the African painted dogs.

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HCP Gift Shop

You can now order hirola merchandise and 'Wear Your Support' from our online store thanks to our partner **Animalia Collective**. Each purchase will support hirola conservation. Buy any HCP apparel of your choice by clicking on the image below.



Green Firefox Family

Green Firefox is an upcycled jewellery business run by 17 year old Makenna Connolly

Hirola Habitat Restoration Video



Other field updates from the conservancies.

Bura East Conservancy

Two arrests of suspected poachers were made and hirola rangers also mapped out poaching hotspots. In addition, the scouts collected 6 snare wires in the conservancy this month alone. Other wildlife threats such as charcoal burning activities (6 bags confiscated) were also documented during the patrols. Wildlife sightings in Bura East conservancy included the endangered Grevy's zebra (two herds, totalling=14; average=5; range=4-7), reticulated giraffes (total=34; average=7, range=3-7) among other wildlife species.



that supports wildlife and environmental conservation. It is instrumental in creating conservation awareness amongst a young audience. They donate \$7 from each necklace and \$5 from each bracelet customer's purchase to an organization of their choice within **Green Firefox family**. HCP is now part of the Family. To support our work please use the code HIROLA at www.greenfirefox.com to receive 25% off your purchase, and choose the Hirola Conservation Programme at checkout.

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Ishaqbini Conservancy

Depressed rainfall was recorded in the conservancy since the end of March through April. The Ishaqbini river that feeds the Ishaqbini lake was back to life as a result of rainfall recorded in the nearby Qorisa and Hara areas. Wildlife sightings reports for April indicate a total of twenty-one hirola individuals (total=21, average=8, range= 4-11), belonging to the three herds resident in the conservancy. We did not record hirola calving in the conservancy. Other wildlife sightings were as follows; common zebra, total=46 (6 herds, average=14, range= 4-17), reticulated giraffes, total= 39 (4 herds, mean=8, range=6-20). No human wildlife conflict report was reported for the month. The encroaching pastoralists who had camped close to the conservancy have also left. This means less competition for the wildlife in the conservancy. Mortality reports for the month indicates only one adult female lesser kudu was reported to have died from natural causes in the conservancy.



Hirola Predator Proof Sanctuary

The predator proof sanctuary similarly recorded depressed rainfall restricted to the eastern section of the sanctuary. Perennial grasses have sprouted and the previously dry bushes are gradually turning green by the day. As a result, our rangers stationed in the sanctuary have continued to report sightings of hirola herds totalling (8 herds, total=121, average=13, range=7-15), plain zebra (4 herds, total=41, average=10; range: 4-16), reticulated giraffes (5 herds, total=56, average=11; range: 3-14) among other wildlife sightings.



Sangailu Conservancy

Sangailu conservancy recorded fair amount of rainfall and flash floods for this month. Most of the areas are now teeming with wildlife following the sprouting of the perennial grasses. Our hirola monthly monitoring report indicates hirolas (total=44, 4 distinct herds, average=8, range=5-14). Other wildlife sightings included Topi (total=14, 2 distinct herds, average=7, range=5-9), kudu (total=8, 3 distinct herds, average=3, range=2-4) among other wildlife species in the area. Only three adult buffaloes were reported to have succumbed to the drought prior to the rains. On a positive note, no wildlife poaching incidents, snares nor human wildlife conflict was reported.



Hirola Conservation Programme (HCP)

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