

FOUNDATION
GREAT PLAINS



2025 ANNUAL REPORT
A FUTURE OF HOPE



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VISION

We strive for a world in balance, where its precious landscapes are restored, its biodiversity is protected, and our communities can coexist in harmony. *Imagine.*

MISSION

To conserve and expand natural habitats for biodiversity to thrive with a long-term commitment to the environment, wildlife and local communities.

“Imagine walking with us in the bush. You look at your feet for safety, for stability, to advance step by step. You look at the horizon for direction and to the future. Walking with us at Great Plains follows the same balance between the immediate and the future in everything we do.”

- Dereck Joubert; Co-Founder and leader of the Great Plains Foundation.

OUR PATH

HEALTHY MINDS IN HEALTHY BODIES IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT.

Great Plains Foundation operates across Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe, working in partnership with communities to protect and restore the most critical ecosystems. We support conservation, big cats, wildlife rangers and human-wildlife coexistence worldwide, extending the impact of our work beyond our borders.



Wildlife needs vast amounts of land to roam freely. As the Great Plains Foundation, we manage the conservation of the 1.5 million acres of land leased by Great Plains Conservation, (the conservation tourism arm of Great Plains Foundation). This leased land generates vital income to our community partners and protects the biodiversity, so everyone (people and wildlife) can thrive.



Biodiversity protection is the bedrock of our work. The Great Plains 'mission' recognises that the future of everything lies in the interconnectedness of biodiversity and humanity, so our efforts focus on restoring the health and well-being of both. Restoring ecosystems requires a diverse range of conservation efforts, from daily environmental monitoring and indigenous tree planting to large-scale wildlife translocations that rebuild declining populations and protect threatened species.



Local communities are the custodians of these wild landscapes and are essential to long-term development and conservation of natural resources. Community development starts with the next generation, which is why reducing barriers to education is at the core of our efforts. Women are central to community development, and we have found that empowering women has a trickle-down effect in local communities.





A FUTURE OF HOPE

A message from Dereck and Beverly Joubert, Founders of Great Plains Foundation, National Geographic Explorers at Large.

The world united around a single, simple concept a few years ago: Thirty by thirty. 30% of the planet's land preserved by 2030. Despite everyone's best efforts, our own included to get to a few million acres of land in Africa, it was unattainable. But what we try to do by 2030, we now MUST do by 2050, or our very own species will suffer.

We have never been alarmists, so converting that fact into action is what the Great Plains Foundation does.

Beverly and I consider ourselves to be Emergency Conservationists now, where we and our team, take calls, or identify problems and apply solutions. "We have too many elephants," "Okay we will move them for you." "We want to destroy a pack of Painted Dogs," "Wait, we can rescue them and populate an area with too few." Each day we find ourselves working up solutions because we have never lived in an era in conservation, where we have had more hope. We have the means, the technology, and the world's interest to do something outstanding now.

The obstacle to scaled success is not ideas or opportunities. It is not the willingness of our communities in Botswana, Zimbabwe or Kenya. It is the willingness of our supporters to assist us, as they have in growing numbers and healthy donations each year. 2025 was our highest fund-raising year and it was also the year we released endangered painted dogs.

This report is an accountability document to those of you who so kindly helped in 2025. It is also a living record of our progress, year on year, because conservation is never done overnight, it is the long game, the eye on the horizon.

If we are to succeed, it will be with an eye to 2050 where 30% of the planet is secure, safe for nature and protected from us. It is, hopefully, the natural world's version of singularity, beyond which critical mass of the idea takes off.

Please join us on that journey of hope.

Dereck and Beverly

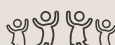
TOTAL IMPACT

OF THE GREAT PLAINS FOUNDATION THROUGH DECEMBER 2025

Generating meaningful impact is at the core of the Great Plains Foundation’s work. Here is a summary of our impact from our programmes so far.



COMMUNITY

 SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMME SINCE 2022 Nutritious meals to boost attendance, attention and progress 8.1 MILLION Nutritious Meals Distributed	 SCHOOL SUPPORT SINCE 2010 Great Plains partners with schools to boost education in rural communities 16,700 School Children Benefiting	 MOBILE CLINICS SINCE 2022 Bringing regional medical specialists to schools in rural communities 2,502 School Kids Reached
 CONSERVATION EDUCATION SINCE 2010 Knowledge sharing through Conservation Education camps for schools 2,228 School Kids Hosted	 CONSERVATION GOALS SINCE 2019 Engaging youth in conservation and development through Netball and Football 1,244 Young People Engaged	 SOLAR MAMAS SINCE 2019 Women-led business bringing safe renewable energy to off-grid communities to support education and human-wildlife coexistence 1,000 Homes Installed with Solar
 NABOISHO WOMEN’S GROUP SINCE 2022 Supporting a women-led business in the Maasai Mara, diversifying incomes. 155 Women in the Business	 GREAT PLAINS EARTH ACADEMY SINCE 2020 Bringing vocational training courses to rural communities to boost employment rates in young people 142 Students Trained	 SMALLHOLDER FARMER SUPPORT SINCE 2023 Supporting smallholder farmers in Botswana and Kenya through partnerships. 159 Farmers Supported
 SPONSORED TEACHERS SINCE 2021 Sponsoring the salary of teachers to boost quality of education and support teachers 45 Teachers Sponsored	 SPONSORED STUDENTS SINCE 2023 Sponsoring students to attend Conservation Leaders Courses as the next generation of leaders 9 Students Sponsored	 BUILDING BRIDGES SINCE 2022 Providing communities with safe access across dangerous rivers to school and medical facilities 5 Bridges Built

CONSERVATION



ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION

SINCE 2006

Land under Great Plains protection in Africa

1.5 MILLION

Acres Protected



CONSERVATION ROOTS

SINCE 2019

Planting indigenous trees for ecosystem restoration, food security and carbon sequestration

59,577

Indigenous Trees Planted



PROJECT REWILD

SINCE 2022

Translocations of wildlife for conservation and post-translocation monitoring

70

Giraffe

101

Elephants

68

Zebras

663

Impalas

17

Painted Dogs



WILDLIFE RANGERS

SINCE 2017

Hiring, training and equipping wildlife rangers to monitor and protect wild landscapes.

35

Wildlife Rangers Total

21

Female Rangers



RHINO CONSERVATION

SINCE 2015

Protecting endangered rhinos for future generations

87

Rhinos Translocated as Rhinos Without Borders



PROJECT RANGER

SINCE 2020

Project funding for anti-poaching across Africa

47

Grants in Countries

9

Grants in Countries



BIG CATS INITIATIVE

Dedicated to supporting big cat conservation efforts worldwide.

157

Grants in Countries

29

Grants in Countries

24

Grants in Countries

11

Grants in Countries

In partnership with National Geographic 2009 - 2021

Since Great Plains Foundation Management SINCE 2022





Land

Great Plains is protecting and restoring 1.1 million acres of land across Botswana, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

“Protecting land creates essential habitats for species to flourish, so it is the basis for our work.

Our Land for conservation initiative is linked to Great Plains Conservation and is always leased land, so the communities benefit daily. It is the vital life-support system that houses the wildlife we think of as the fuel for that engine.

Elephants, in our mind, don't destroy trees, they distribute seeds and stimulate growth. Lions don't and cannot over-hunt reserves, they keep them healthy.

The key is enough land to allow wildlife to create their own balance, as they have always done.”

- Beverly Joubert

PROTECTING AFRICA’S CRITICAL LANDSCAPES AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Great Plains operates in some of Africa’s most ecologically vital landscapes, safeguarding 1.5 million acres across Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Kenya. Each reserve and conservancy is a protected space that is a key component of globally significant ecosystems, supporting rare biodiversity, critical migration routes, and human-wildlife coexistence.

BOTSWANA

In northern Botswana, our work is within the Okavango Delta system, one of the most dynamic and ecologically significant landscapes in Southern Africa, all the way up to the northern part of the country in Linyanti. This landscape is recognised as the 1000th UNESCO World Heritage Site within the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA) but it still needs our private protection and nurturing for its long-term resilience.



ZIMBABWE

In the Mid-Zambezi Valley, the Sapi Reserve forms part of a broader, connected conservation landscape alongside Mana Pools National Park. It sits within both the Lower Zambezi–Mana Pools Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) and the Zimbabwe–Mozambique–Zambia (ZIMOZA) TFCA; critical pieces of Africa we must protect.

Within this context, Sapi functions as a key corridor for species such as elephants, lions, leopards, and painted dogs (African wild dogs), so our efforts here are to boost those populations so they can, in turn, drive the entire health of the system.



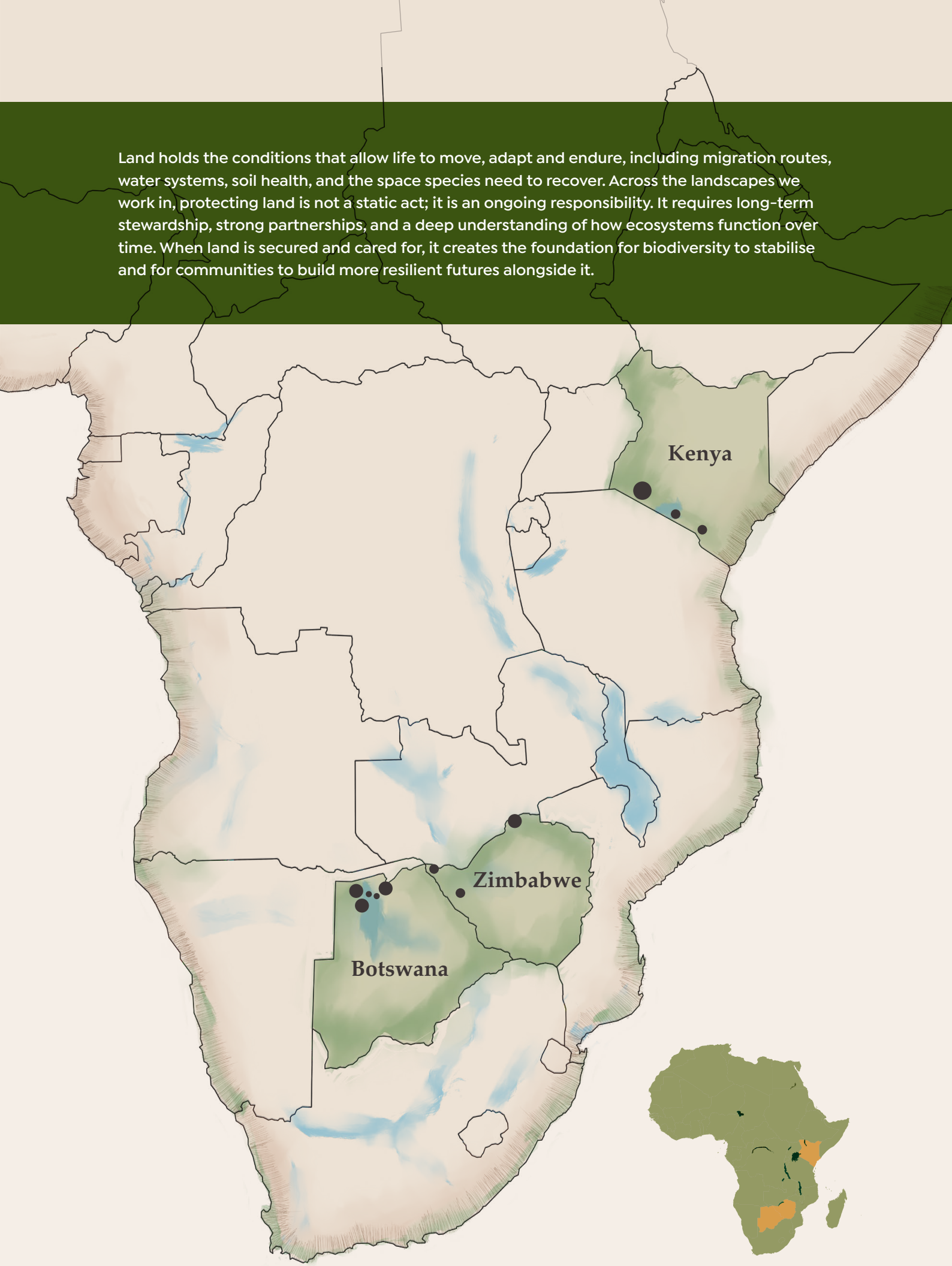
KENYA

Across Kenya, our work takes place within Maasai-managed landscapes that are central to some of East Africa’s most important wildlife. This includes Mbirikani Group Ranch in the Greater Amboseli Ecosystem, Shompole in the southern part of Kenya’s Great Rift Valley, and conservancies within the Greater Maasai Mara ecosystem, Naboisho, Mara North, and Olare Motorogi.

These areas sustain key wildlife corridors, including the Mara–Serengeti migration and the Tsavo–Amboseli ecosystem, supporting critical species such as zebra, cheetah and elephants.



Land holds the conditions that allow life to move, adapt and endure, including migration routes, water systems, soil health, and the space species need to recover. Across the landscapes we work in, protecting land is not a static act; it is an ongoing responsibility. It requires long-term stewardship, strong partnerships, and a deep understanding of how ecosystems function over time. When land is secured and cared for, it creates the foundation for biodiversity to stabilise and for communities to build more resilient futures alongside it.



BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

Across Botswana and Zimbabwe, Great Plains works within some of Southern Africa’s most ecologically significant landscapes, where wetlands, floodplains and woodlands support the movement of wildlife across vast, interconnected ecosystems. From the Okavango Delta and Linyanti to the Mid-Zambezi Valley, protecting these landscapes through conservation tourism, ranger and research programmes requires long-term stewardship, scientific understanding and partnerships that recognise that healthy ecosystems and thriving communities are inseparable.

OKAVANGO DELTA AND LINYANTI, BOTSWANA

The Okavango Delta and Linyanti ecosystems form part of one of Africa’s last great intact wilderness systems, where seasonal floodwaters shape a dynamic landscape of channels, floodplains, grasslands and woodlands. Situated within the Kavango-Zambezi Transfrontier Conservation Area (KAZA TFCA), these connected habitats support globally significant populations of elephants, African painted dogs, rhinos, large predators and countless other species that depend on the freedom to move across the landscape.

To find out more, watch our film Okavango: River of Dreams on PBS, or National Geographic on Disney+.

SAPI RESERVE, ZIMBABWE

Sapi Reserve forms part of the greater Mid-Zambezi landscape, connected to Mana Pools National Park, the wider Lower Zambezi–Mana Pools Transfrontier Conservation Area (TFCA) and the Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Zambia (ZIMOZA) TFCA. Its floodplains and miombo woodlands provide vital habitat and movement corridors for elephants, lions, leopards and African painted dogs, and more, making it an important landscape for biodiversity recovery.

Here we are reintroducing and building depleted populations, rewilding for the future.

HWANGE, ZIMBABWE

In line with the KAZA TFCA master plan, Great Plains is working with the Zimbabwe Government on reopening a critical migration corridor, ensuring wildlife (in particular, elephants) can traverse safely from Hwange to the Gwayi Lake for water without the threat of being poached.

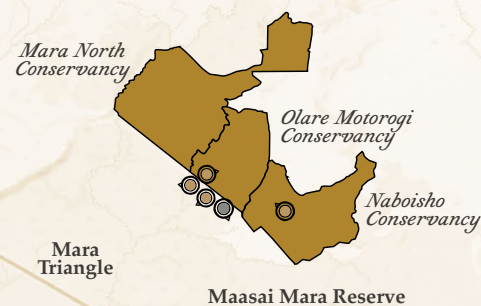
Prior to Great Plains’s involvement over 60% of this area adjoining Hwange National Park was under consumptive use. Great Plains plans to convert this area (which includes the important Sikumi Forest reserve) to conservation tourism, creating a safe corridor for multiple species including elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, sable, and general plains game, as well as greater benefits to and opportunities for local communities.

MAP KEY

- Great Plains-protected areas
- National Park

KENYA

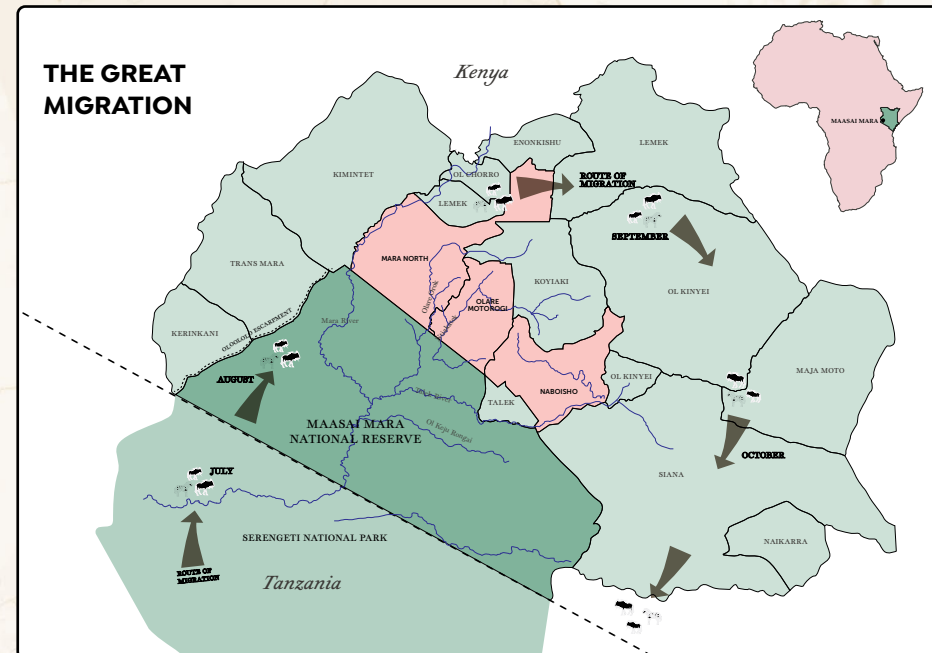
Across Kenya, our work is rooted in landscapes where wildlife and people have shared the land for generations. From the grasslands of the Maasai Mara and Shompole to the Tsavo-Amboseli ecosystem, these community-managed areas safeguard critical wildlife corridors while supporting local livelihoods. Through long-term partnerships, Great Plains invests in the protection and restoration of ecosystems that are essential for both biodiversity and human well-being.

**MAASAI MARA, KENYA**

The Greater Maasai Mara ecosystem is one of the world's most renowned wildlife landscapes, supporting the annual migration of more than a million wildebeest. The health of this ecosystem depends not only on protected areas, but also on the surrounding community conservancies that maintain open wildlife corridors across the landscape.

Great Plains supports these efforts through partnerships that strengthen ranger capacity, protect biodiversity and invest in community-led conservation. The work highlighted throughout this report demonstrates that safeguarding one of Africa's greatest natural phenomena also means supporting the people who have lived alongside wildlife for generations by investing in community development, the empowerment of women in business and environmental clean-up programmes.

THE GREAT MIGRATION



Nairobi

SHOMPOLE, KENYA

Situated within Kenya's southern Rift Valley, Shompole Conservancy forms an important ecological link between the Amboseli and Maasai Mara ecosystems. This community-owned landscape provides critical habitat for elephants, lions, cheetahs, giraffes and numerous migratory species, allowing wildlife to move across a connected network of protected areas.

Our partnership with the Shompole community is built on the understanding that conservation-compatible livelihoods can benefit people and protect open rangelands.

CHYULU HILLS, TSAVO - AMBOSELI, KENYA.

In Kenya's Chyulu Hills, where the Tsavo and Amboseli ecosystems converge, Great Plains works in partnership with the local Maasai community to protect land through long-term conservation tourism leases. These leases help safeguard vital wildlife corridors while generating direct economic benefits for local communities through tourism revenue and employment.

Following the severe drought that affected southern Kenya between 2020 and 2023, this landscape remains in recovery. Rangelands, water systems and wildlife corridors are under ongoing pressure, making their protection increasingly critical for biodiversity, farming, pastoral livelihoods and community resilience. Long-term conservation here depends on conservation partnerships to protect the land as a shared life-support system, one that sustains wildlife, livestock and people.

Through community partnerships, food relief, local employment, and support for nature-based solutions, Great Plains contributes to a broader effort to strengthen coexistence across the ecosystem. This landscape is also connected to Big Cats Initiative-supported cheetah monitoring in the wider Tsavo region, which is explored further in the Big Cats Initiative Chapter.

MAP KEY

- Great Plains-protected areas
National Park

Conservation

Conservation, at its core, is about maintaining the integrity of living systems. It requires both consistency and the ability to respond when conditions shift, whether that is through long-term monitoring, restoring species populations, or addressing immediate threats. To do that, we are diligent about applying science and research as a tool and a check and balance.

Our work brings together field knowledge, science, and technology to better understand how ecosystems are changing and responding to our conservation work.



EMERGENCY CONSERVATION: PROJECT REWILD

Wildlife Translocations and Post-Translocation Monitoring

Project Rewild is centred on restoring ecological balance where it has been disrupted. Through carefully planned wildlife translocations and long-term post-release monitoring, the initiative supports the recovery of species populations while strengthening the systems they depend on. This work goes beyond the movement of animals; it is about understanding how they adapt, how landscapes respond, and how ecosystems begin to function again over time. In partnership with conservation authorities and supported by rigorous science, Project Rewild contributes to rebuilding resilient, living systems and protecting critical and endangered wildlife species.

ZIMBABWE Wildlife Translocations and Population Growth

This year, Project Rewild reached transformative milestones in restoring the ecological integrity of the Sapi Reserve through ambitious translocations and rigorous scientific monitoring. Our efforts focused on rebuilding both prey bases and apex predator populations. A highlight was the successful translocation of 479 impalas to bolster the reserve's biodiversity and create a reliable prey base for large carnivores. More significantly, the third quarter saw the high-stakes relocation of a pack of 17 endangered painted dogs, including eight adults and nine pups. Originally involved in human-wildlife conflict in southern Zimbabwe, this pack has successfully adapted to the Sapi landscape, exhibiting healthy movement patterns and exploring diverse habitats.

“This all began some time ago when we heard that a population of painted dogs in the southern part of Zimbabwe was hunting both inside and outside nearby livestock areas, causing some damage. We offered to help. Help in this case was as it has been with elephants, giraffe, impala and zebras - moving them and releasing them, giving them a second chance. A very engaged team at Zimbabwe Parks could not have been more helpful. The stakes are high, and no one wants to see threatened and endangered species reduced, but human-wildlife conflict is real and needs to be tackled quickly.



 **2025 TRANSLOCATIONS:**
17 Painted dogs **479** Impalas

TOTAL TRANSLOCATIONS:
663 Impalas **101** Elephants



The operation involved capturing, containing and then airlifting the pack to the private Sapi Reserve where they stayed in a large, fenced area for a few months before being released into the landscape.

Within an hour of being released, they saw an impala and gave chase! Within a few hours, they had settled and slept a few miles from their pen. That same evening, they came back ‘home’ to make the first of their kills near our research camp. At that moment, we all felt as though we could breathe freely, and from then on, they had to run with the wind in their faces, hunt along the floodplains, and venture into the vast Sapi Reserve and beyond to Mana Pools or anywhere else. These dogs must play in their new river, meet their future mates, and strengthen their fragile bloodlines. It is the latest phase of our rewilding efforts, and we are preparing for the next.”

Dereck Joubert.



Supported in part by
National Geographic

87 Rhinos **70** Giraffe **68** Zebra **17** Painted Dogs



ZIMBABWE Advanced Monitoring and Research of Elephants

Great Plains has been monitoring 13 elephant herds since the 2022 translocations. This year we implemented a sophisticated dual-collaring method, fitting satellite tracking units to both the matriarch and a secondary dominant female in each elephant herd. This approach creates a more resilient monitoring framework and supports ongoing PhD research into herd movement and social dynamics. Technical fieldwork this year included recollaring 13 elephants and fitting trackers to three new individuals, while a partnership with Conservation Lower Zambezi allowed us to recollar five elephants that had moved into Zambia. Our long-term monitoring of the 101 elephants translocated in 2022 remains a priority, and the recording of six new calves this year serves as a vital indicator of successful adaptation to their new habitat.

By documenting physical health, spatial movement, and habitat use, the team continues to generate the essential ecological data required to refine translocation protocols and conservation management. Whether through the successful release of predators or the expansion of the elephant population, the project reinforces a hopeful future for the Sapi Reserve's fragile bloodlines and overall ecosystem balance.

LONG-TERM ECOSYSTEM & BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION

Monitoring and conserving biodiversity, including critical species

Protecting biodiversity requires a sustained presence. By strengthening both data collection and on-the-ground capacity, we respond to emerging challenges.

In 2025, the Great Plains Wildlife Rangers and Foundation teams have made significant strides in monitoring and conserving over 694,000 acres (280,852 hectares) of critical ecosystems across Botswana and Zimbabwe.

BOTSWANA

Illegal Activity Prevention

In Botswana, the focus remained on the Okavango Delta and Linyanti Swamp systems. Efforts resulted in the successful removal of 145 snares and numerous illegal fishing nets.

Our ongoing collaboration with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) and the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) remains central to protecting key wilderness areas. By working alongside government authorities, our teams contribute to maintaining the integrity of these ecosystems through aligned conservation objectives, shared resources and a unified approach to long-term environmental protection and stewardship.

BOTSWANA

Keystone Crocodile Hatching

A highlight for the team was the close monitoring of more than 160 crocodile hatchlings. This significant hatching event is an encouraging indicator of ecosystem health, as crocodiles rely on stable, thriving environments to reproduce successfully. As a keystone species and apex predator, crocodiles play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance, regulating prey populations, and contributing to nutrient cycling throughout the ecosystem.

ZIMBABWE

AI-driven Satellite Mapping

In Zimbabwe, a major milestone in the second half of the year was the initiation of AI-driven satellite mapping. This technology allows the Zimbabwe teams to model canopy height and vegetation distribution, providing a digitised, scalable method to monitor ecosystem changes over time.

BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

IUCN Species Protection

Across both regions, our contribution to the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project (under the IUCN's Ground Hornbill Specialist Group) in both Botswana and Zimbabwe grew substantially, with our data now feeding directly into the IUCN Zimbabwe Action Plan and National Monitoring Programme.



“...We are now at a pivotal time in history, where our actions will determine the fate of some of the most iconic African animals and landscapes. We can do this. We can change the course of history and choose to protect and preserve...”

Dereck Joubert, Great Plains Foundation Co-Founder and Chairman.



APPLIED CONSERVATION RESEARCH

Dedicated research to inform conservation decisions in the landscape and the wider conservation academic field.

In 2025, our research portfolio expanded by funding local PhD candidates to ensure that our conservation decisions are rooted in robust scientific data and high-tech monitoring.

BOTSWANA

Large Herbivore Grazing Behaviour

In the Okavango Delta, research is underway focussing on establishing the vegetation and grazing habits of rhinos. Great Plains is committed to working with Botswana’s National Rhino Coordinator and Steering Committee to support healthy, genetically diverse rhino populations.

Under the guidance of PhD candidate Tshephang Keemekae and the Okavango Research Institute, this two-year study investigates how rhinos coexist with other grazers and compete for food. The research examines how physiological factors, such as body size and digestive systems, dictate habitat use across the fluctuating wet and dry seasons.

ZIMBABWE

Translocated Elephant Adaptation

In the Sapi Reserve, ZimParks Principal Ecologist Patmore Ngorima continued his PhD research into the impact of translocation on elephant health and reproductive status. Utilising advanced real-time platforms like EarthRanger and Satellite VHF tracking, the study monitors both resident and translocated herds. Data collection has been intensive, involving the analysis of dung samples to monitor hormone levels and stress indicators.

ZIMBABWE

Painted Dog Spatial Ecology and Competition

Ecologist Thomas Mutohori has made substantial strides in his PhD study on the large carnivores of the Mid-Zambezi Valley. His research specifically assesses the stability and dispersal of the newly translocated painted dog packs. By collecting DNA and hormone samples, this research aims to understand genetic diversity and pack dynamics, providing the essential data needed to manage and protect these endangered predators within a complex ecosystem.



SUPPORTING RANGERS

Sponsoring infrastructure, training and operational support to ranger units within the landscapes of Great Plains’ operations.

The Great Plains Foundation significantly expanded its commitment to the men and women on the frontline of conservation by providing essential infrastructure, equipment, and operational funding to partner ranger units working to protect the wider landscape of areas where Great Plains operates in Kenya and Zimbabwe. By focusing on improving living conditions and securing daily operational costs, we have ensured that these units can maintain a consistent, effective presence in some of Africa’s most critical wildlife corridors.

KENYA

Infrastructure and Operational Support

In the Maasai Mara ecosystem, our support reached the Olare Motorogi and Enarau Conservancies, which serve as vital buffers for the annual Great Migration. In Olare Motorogi Conservancy, we successfully completed 16 housing units, a kitchen and dining hall, and a water harvesting system to provide high-quality accommodation for up to 24 rangers, including a dedicated block for female personnel. Further north, in the 840,000-acre Sera Conservancy, our support was foundational to the protection of the black rhino population. By covering salaries, rations, fuel, and vehicle maintenance, we enabled the continuous deployment of anti-poaching patrols and security operations essential to the conservancy’s daily functioning.

ZIMBABWE

Infrastructure Support and Technological Upgrades

In Zimbabwe we have focused on transforming the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks) ranger post inside the Sapi Reserve into a modern operational hub. This year saw the completion of insulated housing, a canteen unit, and critical sanitation infrastructure. A significant milestone was reached with the drilling of a borehole to secure a reliable water source for the team. These upgrades, alongside planned solar and electrical enhancements, provide the necessary stability for ZimParks rangers to effectively monitor and protect the Mid-Zambezi Valley’s diverse wildlife populations.



“This project represents a major milestone in improving ranger welfare, strengthening conservation operations and promoting sustainable infrastructural development at Enarau Conservancy. We extend our sincere gratitude to the Great Plains Foundation for their invaluable support in bringing this transformative project to life.”

Enarau Conservancy

FEMALE RANGERS

Training and hiring Female Wildlife Rangers from local communities

In 2025, the Female Ranger initiative has significantly advanced its mission of empowering women from communities near wildlife areas to take the lead in wildlife protection. Across Botswana and Zimbabwe, our team of women grew to a total of 21 members. Women are challenging traditional conservation stereotypes by excelling in high-stakes operations, including extended overnight patrols and security-oriented missions. The programme has seen successful expansion this year, with three new Female Rangers completing their probation in the first quarter and an additional three trainees joining the Botswana team in the final quarter, beginning their comprehensive 12-month induction in a variety of skills from field-based training to computer literacy and First Aid.

Botswana Team

In Botswana, the team has demonstrated exceptional technical growth, particularly in navigating the challenging terrain of the Okavango Delta. The Female Rangers completed intensive 4x4 driving courses, allowing them to manage deep water crossings and thick mud during the flood season. Their operational impact was further highlighted by their collaboration with the Botswana Defence Force, where they utilised vehicle, boat, and helicopter patrols to successfully stem illegal fishing across 163,000 hectares of wilderness.

Zimbabwe Team

In Zimbabwe, the focus has been on advanced technical monitoring and academic excellence. The Female Rangers have been at the forefront of tracking the newly introduced painted dogs and monitoring the resident elephant herds using sophisticated tools like Ecoscope and EarthRanger. Parallel to their field duties, the Zimbabwean team has made impressive strides in higher education; two rangers completed their BSc degrees in Wildlife and Conservation, while two others are nearing the completion of their Master’s degrees in Sustainable Development. Their work extends beyond the reserve into 10 neighbouring villages, where they lead critical awareness sessions to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and inspire the next generation of conservationists.

“Receiving our uniforms and passing the assessments made us feel proud and motivated to continue in conservation.”

Female Ranger Trainee



3 New Female Rangers Onboarded

21 Female Rangers in the programme in 2025



“Being part of this project has been a game-changer for me. I’ve had the opportunity to advance my education, develop new skills, and contribute to conservation efforts that make a real difference. Working with the community and seeing the impact of our work on the ground is truly inspiring. I’m proud to be part of a team that’s passionate about protecting our wildlife and empowering women in conservation.”

Olivia, Female Ranger



Supported in part by National Geographic

WILDLIFE RANGER DEVELOPMENT
Building capacity and upskilling Wildlife Rangers

In 2025 the Wildlife Ranger Development programme has significantly enhanced the operational readiness and professional growth of our teams across Botswana and Zimbabwe.

In Botswana, three of our Great Plains Rangers transitioned into the Leadership Development programme, a three-month internal development plan where each ranger enhances their skills in coaching, monitoring, performance and training needs. To bolster data-driven conservation, Zimbabwe rangers underwent intensive training in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing, enabling them to use satellite data for monitoring ecosystem changes and tracking wildlife movements with greater precision.

Physical and mental resilience remained a cornerstone of the programme. Our Rangers in Botswana demonstrated extraordinary grit by participating in the Kazungula Bridge and Diacore Half Marathons, culminating in the annual Wildlife Ranger Challenge, uniting with Rangers across Africa. During this event, 16 Rangers completed a 21km run carrying weighted packs of up to 10 kg for women and 22kg for men, fostering a sense of unity and global awareness for frontline conservation.

Beyond physical endurance, the trainings expanded to include ‘Conservation Storytelling’, empowering rangers to document patrol insights and share their experiences with local communities and donors. Technical proficiency also saw marked gains, with advanced training in GPS technology, map reading, and 4x4 defensive driving. These collective efforts, ranging from promoting five new Team Leaders to mastering off-road vehicle maintenance, have cultivated a more confident and efficient force, directly strengthening our capacity to protect these vital ecosystems.

“Our commitment to team development is reflected in the strides our rangers have made this year. Together, these initiatives empower our rangers to become more skilled, knowledgeable, and resilient in their vital roles.”

Gordon Duncan, Head of Foundation, Zimbabwe

“Participating in the Wildlife Ranger Challenge showed me that I’m stronger than I ever thought. It was a tough challenge, but absolutely worth it. It not only tests physical and mental endurance but also inspires growth, teamwork, and a stronger sense of determination.”

Rachel Sibanda, Biodiversity Ranger - Team Leader

“Conservation Storytelling Training has been an eye-opening workshop for me, because it’s through storytelling that we share conservation ideas with our communities. We can change their mindsets by telling them what we encounter in the field.”

Irene, Female Ranger, Botswana



1.5million
Acres protected

35 Great Plains Wildlife
Rangers in total in 2025

Thomas, our expert ecologist stationed in Sapi, tracking the location of the translocated painted dog pack using a VHF collar tracking device.



LAND & RESTORATION: CONSERVATION ROOTS

Planting indigenous trees for ecosystem restoration and climate change resilience

Restoring ecosystems begins with rebuilding the systems that sustain them. Indigenous trees play a critical role in this process by stabilising soil, supporting biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, regulating water, and strengthening resilience to a changing climate. By combining indigenous reforestation with community stewardship, the project supports restoration that extends beyond planting, including educational workshops, contributing to healthier, more stable landscapes over time.

The Conservation Roots project has made significant strides in ecosystem restoration this year by focusing on the strategic planting of indigenous species across Kenya. Central to this mission is the philosophy that reforestation is only effective when paired with long-term safeguarding. To ensure this, the team has successfully integrated community stewardship with scientific propagation, surpassing the major milestone of 50,000 trees planted.

KENYA

Ecosystem Restoration and Propagation

In the Maasai Mara, the project’s central tree nursery served as the engine for restoration, where the team collected and propagated seeds from local landscapes, including acacias, crotons, figs, and the endangered Warburgia ugandensis (Greenheart Tree). Over the course of the year, thousands of indigenous saplings were planted to strengthen riverbanks, restore canopy cover, and improve habitat resilience against erosion.

KENYA

Community Engagement and Education

A vital component of the project’s sustainability has been its focus on environmental education and community partnership. The team regularly visited primary schools and self-help groups, donating over 2,100 trees and leading workshops on the benefits of reforestation. These sessions empower local students and community members to become the guardians of their own natural resources, providing shade, soil stability, and a renewed sense of connection to the environment. As noted by local community leaders, these seedlings represent more than just ecological recovery; “they are symbols of hope and shared commitment to a resilient future for the next generation”.



“Tree planting from Great Plains Foundation has brought our community together. It is not just about trees, it’s about building greener, healthier and more connected communities”

Simon Kerore, Community Association Leader



“Great Plains Foundation has given us a sense of purpose and responsibility. We now take pride in maintaining the trees and educating others about their importance.”

Mr Kasaine, Community group leader



12,469

New Trees Planted in 2025

59,577

Total Trees Planted



Community

The relationship between people and the natural world is not separate; it is shared, lived, and constantly evolving.

Supporting education, livelihoods, and access to essential services strengthens that relationship, creating the conditions for long-term stewardship and resilience. Our approach is rooted in partnership, listening, and co-creation, recognising that meaningful conservation outcomes depend on communities being supported, engaged, and able to shape their own futures alongside the ecosystems they depend on.

COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT & DEVELOPMENT

Across the landscapes where the Great Plains Foundation operates, community upliftment is rooted in practical, locally led solutions that support everyday life. From women-led solar initiatives in Botswana to farming, enterprise, and improved access to healthcare, this work focuses on strengthening livelihoods, supporting wellbeing and creating opportunity.

BOTSWANA

SOLAR MAMAS

Bringing solar power to off-grid communities in Botswana through a women-led business

In 2019, the Great Plains Foundation supported nine women from northern Botswana communities to travel to India for a five-month solar training programme. They returned as Solar Mamas, equipped with the skills to install and maintain solar systems, run small businesses, and bring reliable energy into their communities. This shift from paraffin and firewood to solar energy is not only safer and more sustainable, but also supports daily life, enabling better conditions for school homework, economic activity, and greater independence after dark, while reducing human-wildlife conflict in these areas. It stands as a strong example of how practical skills, local leadership, and sustainable technology can come together to support both people and the environment.

In 2025, the Solar Mamas initiative achieved a landmark milestone in its mission to bring sustainable, women-led energy solutions to off-grid communities within the Okavango Delta. The programme, which empowers local women trained in solar engineering, successfully reached its five-year target of installing 1,000 household solar systems. These systems, provided at a subsidised rate, have not only transformed the Solar Mamas into successful entrepreneurs but have also provided reliable electricity to thousands of residents who previously lived entirely off the grid.

The impact of this electrification extends far beyond simple illumination. Community members have reported significant progress in education, as children now have consistent light for evening studies, there is now a power supply for personal devices and local businesses have seen increased productivity. Furthermore, the initiative has contributed to human-elephant coexistence by providing lighting that helps deter wildlife from human settlements and has reduced the environmental impact of wood-burning. It also prevents fires by serving as an alternative light source to oil burners and candle lights. Demonstrating a deep commitment to their neighbours, the Solar Mamas also donated their technical expertise to install 50 systems free of charge for disadvantaged families identified by community social workers across five Okavango Community Trust villages.

As the Solar Mamas continue to grow their business, they have become prominent figures in the regional green economy, showcasing their work at major events like the HATAB conference and the Nkashi Classic.



200

New solar systems installed in 2025

1,000

Households now with renewable energy in total

KENYA

NABOISHO WOMEN’S GROUP
Sponsoring a women-led business in the Maasai Mara to support the empowerment of women and economic independence

The Naboisho Women’s Group has emerged as a powerhouse of community-led entrepreneurship in the Maasai Mara, significantly enhancing the economic self-reliance of 155 Maasai women. Supported by the Great Plains Foundation, the group manages three distinct business streams: traditional beadwork, natural soap-making, and honey production. This year, the enterprise achieved a high level of operational maturity by hiring a dedicated accountant to manage sales and administration, leading to more efficient order fulfilment for safari companies and a strengthened market reputation.

The group’s expansion into honey production has been particularly impactful, with 50 hives now managed by five community groups, including a dedicated group for widowed women. The financial results have been substantial; the group generated over \$15,000 in the latter half of the year alone, providing critical funds for healthcare and the school fees of the 4 to 10 children supported by each member.

Beyond manufacturing, the group has diversified the guest experience by hosting immersive beading sessions for tourists and expanding their product range through specialized leatherwork training. The year concluded with significant infrastructural upgrades to the Naboisho Women’s Craft Centre, funded by generous donors.

“Great Plains Foundation have really helped and improved the life of our mothers, seeing them doing the work they love most is a very special feeling. We are forever grateful to Great Plains Foundation”.

Mary Kirokorr, Local Community Member



“With the inception of this project, I no longer have to wait to ask my husband for money to buy some crucial and most essential household requirements, I just sell some eggs and get what I want”

Ann, Kuku Pesa beneficiary



BOTSWANA, KENYA & ZIMBABWE

COMMUNITY FARMING
Supporting small-holder farmers to improve food security and enterprise in rural areas

Projects under the Community Farming initiative successfully deployed localized agricultural solutions across Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Kenya to enhance food security and boost rural entrepreneurship. By providing high-quality equipment and specialized training, the project is empowering hundreds of families to transition from subsistence farming to sustainable, income-generating enterprises.

In Botswana, the Foundation addressed a critical need for agricultural equipment within the five Okavango Community Trust villages. Each village received a walk-behind tractor, a plough, a harrow, and a planter.

In Zimbabwe, a partnership with NZATU and Wildlife Conservation Action launched a community beekeeping project. This year, 100 beehives were distributed to 50 farmers, with a strategic 60% inclusion rate for women to promote gender equality.

Meanwhile in Kenya, the ‘Kuku Pesa’ (Chicken Money) poultry project, in partnership with The Guardian Project, doubled its reach in the Shompole region. Through a unique “passing-on” model, the original 40 beneficiaries donated offspring to 40 new entrepreneurs, creating a growing network of families capable of diversifying their income through the sale of eggs and poultry.



\$41,000
Income generated for women in the Maasai Mara in 2025



40
New farmers onboarded in 2025

155
Women empowered in business

159
Smallholder farmers supported across Africa in total



“This is a great gesture that Great Plains is working together with the government to support the locals, especially with the housing initiative”

*Wynter Mmolotsi,
Minister of Environment and Tourism*

“I’m happy that now I have a decent house that I will also use with my family”

*Mothoamanong, Beneficiary in
Gudigwa village*

BOTSWANA
WELLBEING & HEALTH ACCESS:
COMMUNITY AMBULANCE
Sponsoring the purchase and refurbishment of an off-road Land Cruiser as an ambulance to support healthcare in rural Botswana

The Great Plains Ambulance has become a vital lifeline for communities bordering the Okavango Delta, addressing the urgent need for medical connectivity in rural Botswana. Since becoming operational in late 2024, the sponsored service has bridged the gap between remote villages and essential healthcare. In 2025 the ambulance reached 134 patients requiring urgent care across the five Okavango Community Trust villages.

“It is a relief now having this ambulance, as we can now cover most areas at a time and our patients don’t miss appointments and we are able to do referrals to bigger hospitals without a struggle on transportation”

Nurse from Gudigwa Village

BOTSWANA
SUSTAINABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE
Upcycling glass waste into sustainable homes in Botswana

In 2025 the Sustainable Housing Initiative achieved a landmark milestone in Botswana by converting environmental waste into sustainable homes. By collecting glass from Great Plains safari camps and local businesses, the project has created a circular economy model that addresses both waste management and the urgent need for housing in the Okavango Delta.

The process involves crushing collected glass into sand to manufacture durable, sustainable bricks. This year, the team celebrated the completion of the first two community houses, constructed from a staggering 13,362kgs of upcycled glass. These homes were presented to families in need during a ceremony attended by Botswana’s Minister of Tourism, highlighting the project’s national significance. By transforming thousands of kilograms of refuse into safe, permanent residences, the initiative proves that innovative conservation practices provide direct, tangible benefits to the people living alongside Africa’s wilderness areas.



134 Patients supported in 2025 **232** In total



2 Community houses built **13,362kg** of glass upcycled

EDUCATION & OPPORTUNITY

Access to education and the ability to pursue opportunity both play a defining role in shaping resilient communities. Across Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Kenya, we work closely with people to create meaningful pathways for learning, skills development, and personal growth. From conservation education and school support to vocational training and youth programmes, young people build the confidence and capability to shape their own futures.

KENYA
SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMME
Distributing nutritious meals to rural schools in Kenya to improve attendance rates and progress

The School Food Programme has solidified its role as a cornerstone for both educational progress and community resilience across rural Kenya.

By partnering with 54 schools across the Maasai Mara, Shompole, and Amboseli-Chyulu regions, the programme has successfully addressed the dual challenges of child hunger and educational absenteeism. Over the course of the year, the initiative grew steadily, adding 360 new students to reach a year-end total of 14,362 pupils receiving a daily nutritious meal.



KENYA & BOTSWANA
SCHOOL SUPPORT
Supporting schools with sponsored teachers and educational supplies

In 2025 the School Support initiative significantly reduced barriers to education for thousands of students across Kenya and Botswana by focusing on infrastructure resilience, teacher sponsorship, and student wellbeing.

Sponsored Teachers
A major highlight was the expansion of the Sponsored Teachers initiative in Kenya, which now supports 45 teachers, including two teachers who speak sign language and specialise in students with hearing impairments. This investment has directly improved teacher-to-student ratios, ensuring more personalised attention and progress in student grades across rural classrooms.

Infrastructure and Emergency Response
In Kenya, this initiative demonstrated its agility by responding to a crisis at Leinkati Primary School, where heavy winds destroyed several classrooms. The Foundation managed the restoration of these structures while simultaneously creating local livelihoods by hiring 13 community members for the construction. This commitment to safe learning environments continued into the final quarter with the restoration of wind-damaged windows at additional sites and the delivery of locally manufactured desks in the Amboseli ecosystem, providing comfortable learning spaces for dozens of pupils.

School Supplies
The year also saw a strong focus on holistic student support. In the Maasai Mara, a new partnership with Huru International provided 100 girls with reusable sanitary kits to boost confidence and school attendance. From donating educational tools like Mother Bears for the new Kenyan curriculum to providing consistent funding for stationery in Botswana, the initiative has fundamentally improved the quality of daily life and learning for students. The Mother Bears programme in particular supports young learners with a soft toy for comfort, which also acts as a learning tool for human anatomy.



BOTSWANA, KENYA & ZIMBABWE
CONSERVATION EDUCATION
Educating and inspiring the next generation
of conservation leaders

In 2025 the Conservation Education programme team continued their mission to inspire new generations of ‘champions for the land’ through immersive field experiences and classroom collaboration. By targeting communities living adjacent to wildlife areas, the initiative ensures that environmental stewardship is seen as both a collective responsibility and a viable career path.

Botswana

In Botswana, the programme centred on exciting and inspiring environmental Kids Camps designed to keep conservation at the forefront of young minds. In August, a refresher session hosted 130 pupils to reinforce lessons on sustainability and wildlife protection. The year culminated in a three-day intensive stay at Selinda Explorers Camp for 60 students, who participated in game drives and behind-the-scenes tours of sustainable camp operations, including solar and water processing. A notable highlight was the collaboration with Mack Air, which flew the students into the camp when heavy rains made road travel impassable, providing many with their first experience of flight.

Zimbabwe

The Zimbabwe programme successfully bridged the gap between primary education and professional development. At the primary school level, the Foundation supported 175 students across 10 schools to host awareness events at local shops and water points to share strategies for mitigating human-wildlife conflict with their communities.

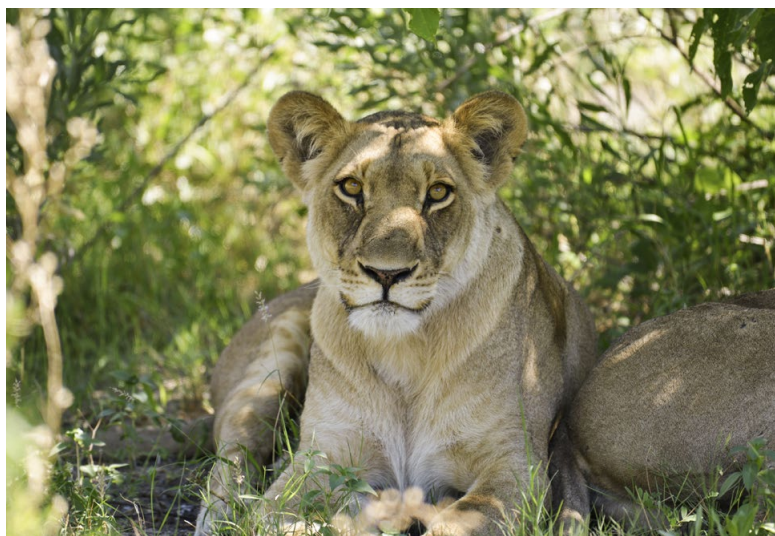
In collaboration with Chinhoyi University of Technology, the Foundation hosted 14 undergraduate students for field research in the Sapi Reserve, focusing on aquatic ecology and mammalogy.



Kenya

In the Amboseli ecosystem, the Kenya team hosted 60 primary school children for a dedicated conservation camp in November.

Great Plains Foundation continued their support for The Maa Trust’s Conservation Education efforts in the Maasai Mara. This year, funding focused on supporting 30 tertiary scholars to complete a four-week training course, empowering them as future leaders of the Maasai Mara ecosystem. This included two weeks of experiential rangeland management, focusing on ecology and human-wildlife coexistence, and two weeks of leadership training. Additionally, the support extended to two workshops with junior and tertiary scholars alongside their parents. These sessions successfully reinforced academic accountability, personal responsibility, and the direct connection between community social benefits and regional conservation efforts.



KENYA
SPONSORED STUDENTS
Sponsoring the fees of Kenyan students pursuing
Conservation Diplomas

Great Plains Foundation continues to invest in future conservation leaders in Kenya through its support of the Conservation Leadership Programme. In 2025 three new students began their two-year Diploma in either Wildlife or Environmental Management. The new scholars include two young women from the Maasai Mara and one young man from Amboseli.

The students completed internships across Kenya’s most critical ecosystems, providing invaluable hands-on experience, ranging from researching the ecological impacts of invasive alien species to investigating the drivers of human-lion conflict.

“We extend our sincere appreciation to Great Plains Foundation for your continued support and partnership in making this scholarship programme a success. Your support not only opens doors to education, but also nurtures responsibility, leadership, and a strong sense of purpose among the beneficiaries. Thank you for believing in their potential and in the difference this programme continues to make.”

Kenya Wildlife Trust

 **505** Students
hosted for Conservation
Education in 2025

2,312 in total
14 undergraduate
students for field research in
the Sapi Reserve

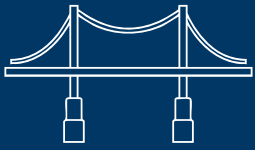
 **3** New diploma scholarships

9 sponsored in total since 2023

KENYA
BUILDING BRIDGES
Connecting communities to essential services, markets and schools

In 2025 the Building Bridges project addressed critical infrastructure gaps that isolate communities during the rainy season. In this region, flooding and strong currents make river crossings dangerous, often cutting off access to healthcare and education. By prioritising permanent footbridges, the initiative fosters safety and economic empowerment.

This year saw the completion of two new community footbridges in the Maasai Mara, delivered in partnership with Bridging the Gap Africa. These structures now provide safe passage for school pupils, ensuring their education is no longer interrupted by seasonal weather. Beyond supporting learners, the bridges serve as vital arteries for the wider community, enabling safe travel to markets and clinics even during peak flooding.



2 New bridges built
5 built in total



“We’re left with no words to say about this amazing work Great Plains Foundation is doing to my community. We have lost lives in the past rainy seasons at this stream due to floods and after the completion of this bridge, we will be moving safely to our local markets, hospitals and kids to school even when the stream is flooded. Thank you”

Rev Nangiyioo, Community Representative

BOTSWANA

GREAT PLAINS EARTH ACADEMY

Training academy upskilling youth for employment and self-development

Established to address unemployment and support community upliftment and rural development in northwestern Botswana, the Great Plains Earth Academy has become a vital hub for professional upskilling. The Academy operates by partnering closely with local communities to identify specific capacity gaps, ensuring that every training course offered provides tangible value and clear pathways to employment for the region's youth.

In 2025, the Academy successfully hosted five core vocational courses: Hospitality, Fire Safety, First Aid, Value-Addition and Leadership Training. The hospitality programme saw the highest engagement with 21 trainees, reflecting the high demand for skilled personnel in the regional tourism sector. Simultaneously, 20 additional students were trained in essential emergency response skills, with 10 participants each in the Fire Fighting and First Aid modules, and a further 10 students for the Leadership Training. By providing this diverse range of technical and vocational education, the Earth Academy continues to empower young people with the practical expertise needed to secure long-term livelihoods and build a more resilient local economy.



BOTSWANA & KENYA

CONSERVATION GOALS

Engaging youth in conservation through sport

In 2025 the Conservation Goals programme successfully leveraged the universal appeal of sport to engage over 650 young people in critical environmental stewardship across Botswana and Kenya. By pairing competitive tournaments with life-skills coaching and human-wildlife coexistence workshops, the initiative has created a unique platform for fostering community resilience and gender equality in key ecological corridors.

Botswana

In August, the annual tournament in the Okavango Delta welcomed 200 participants across ten football and netball teams. Leading up to the matches, athletes participated in specialised sessions hosted by one of our Great Plains Female Wildlife Rangers. Regional organisations, including CLAWS and Ecoexist participated in the final tournament with educational tents set up, to engage with communities on the nuances of coexisting with lions and elephants. The event served as a significant economic catalyst for the area, attracting large crowds and providing a vital marketplace for local food vendors and small businesses, further strengthening the link between conservation events and community wellbeing.

Kenya

The final quarter marked a successful expansion into Kenya with inaugural tournaments in Shompole and the Maasai Mara. In Shompole, a critical corridor between the Mara and Amboseli, the programme engaged 182 participants and over 1,000 spectators, notably including four pioneering girls' teams. In the Maasai Mara, 272 youth gathered under the theme "A happy youth, a healthy planet." Partnering with The Maa Trust, this event focused on building teamwork and confidence while strengthening the relationships between local youth, wildlife rangers, and tourism partners. By providing a constructive alternative to idleness, these tournaments are actively cultivating a new generation of leaders committed to the health of their local ecosystems.

**51**

Trained at the Earth Academy in 2025

152

In total

**654**

Youth participated in Conservation Goals in 2025



GREAT PLAINS BIG CATS INITIATIVE

Grant funding for projects with a focus on big cat conservation.

Big cats require space, stability, and coexistence to survive. Across much of their range, those conditions are under increasing pressure. The Big Cats Initiative extends our work beyond the landscapes we directly manage, supporting organisations on the ground who are addressing these challenges within their own ecosystems around the world. Through targeted grants, we invest in local knowledge, applied scientific research, and practical solutions that strengthen protection efforts while working alongside communities to promote human-wildlife coexistence. It is a recognition that conserving wide-ranging species requires a connected, global effort built on trust and shared purpose.

GREAT PLAINS
BIG
CATS
INITIATIVE

10

grants awarded
in 2025

28

organisations
supported in total

11

countries
since 2023

COLOMBIA
Fundación Proyecto Primates (FPF)
In Colombia's Middle Magdalena region, Fundación Proyecto Primates is advancing efforts to secure jaguar survival in a rapidly changing landscape. The project combines ecological and social science approaches to study jaguar distribution, prey availability, and the effects of habitat fragmentation across human-shared territories. In late 2025, funding enabled deployment of 26 camera traps and supported field logistics for local research teams. Data collected established a strong baseline of feline activity. Moving into 2026, the project will prioritize community interviews to understand local perspectives, helping shape a sustainable, community-supported coexistence strategy that balances conservation goals with human livelihoods.

BRAZIL
Instituto Homem Pantaneiro (IHP), Pantanal
The Instituto Homem Pantaneiro (IHP) advanced critical jaguar and other wildlife monitoring and community education across Brazil's Pantanal using funding from Big Cats Initiative. By deploying strategic camera trap arrays across natural reserves and private farms, the team gathered essential data on species presence and habitat usage over 60-day cycles. Complementing this field of research, IHP hosted an environmental education programme for 79 children. These lessons emphasize the vital importance of local biodiversity and preserving the Pantanal's iconic fauna. Through this dual approach, IHP continues to strengthen the link between scientific data and community-led conservation.

SOUTH SUDAN
Agency For Conservation And Development (ACD)
In 2025, the Agency for Conservation and Development (ACD) made significant strides in South Sudan's Sudd wetlands. Operating around the Zeraf Game Reserve, the team utilised Big Cats Initiative funding to deploy camera traps that officially confirmed the presence of lions and leopards in the region. By combining these vital field surveys with targeted community outreach, ACD is actively working to transform local perceptions and prevent the retaliatory or cultural killing of these essential apex predators.

KENYA
Coexistence For Cats, Cattle & Communities (C4)
Led by researcher Lucrecia Aguilar, the C4 project is transforming human-lion coexistence in Kenya's Laikipia region through data-driven protection. By monitoring over 20 lions, 200 livestock herds, and nearly 200 pastoralist community members, the study provides a comprehensive look at landscape sharing. The integration of SMART collars is a gamechanger, providing real-time location tracking that triggers alerts when lions approach human settlements or grazing areas, successfully preventing conflict and safeguarding both community livelihoods and apex predators.

NEPAL
Bioacoustics Research Group
BRG's work in Nepal promotes human-wildlife coexistence by mapping tiger presence through prey alarm calls in the Dalla community forest, bordering Bardiya National Park. BRG is developing an automated alert system and training locals to verify data to provide early warning of tiger presence to communities bordering the forest. They have installed ten solar-powered "Caracal" acoustic units to capture alarm calls for analysis. These efforts enhance remote, real-time monitoring of tiger movements, support community-based conservation and have potential applicability with other big cats.

KENYA
Wild-Tech, Maasai Mara
Wild-Tech revolutionized landscape monitoring in the Maasai Mara by integrating advanced digital tools with conservation management using funds from Big Cats Initiative. The team successfully deployed an 84-camera trap grid across the Olare-Motorogi and Naboisho Conservancies, utilizing Artificial Intelligence to automate species identification and drastically reduce manual processing time. This high-tech approach allows for real-time ecological analysis, helping managers understand how wildlife distributions are influenced by grazing pressure and human infrastructure. In addition, Wild-Tech is now refining user-friendly software for rangers, ensuring that data-driven insights become a foundational, ongoing tool for sustainable conservancy management.

KENYA
Tsavo Cheetah Project
In 2025, the Tsavo Cheetah Project made major progress protecting one of Kenya's last cheetah strongholds. Supported by a strategic grant from BCI, the team deployed 140 camera traps across key corridors linking Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks. Monitoring scent-marking sites and spoor enabled identification of 32 individual cheetahs, including breeding females and mothers raising young cubs. Beyond monitoring, the project conducts community outreach and is developing a landscape connectivity model to guide regional conservation planning. Working closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service, the team provides data and training for community responding officers, ensuring conservation strategies across the Tsavo ecosystem are grounded in strong science and collaborative action.

TANZANIA
WASIMA
This year, WASIMA advanced human-lion coexistence across Western and Southwestern Tanzania through Big Cats Initiative support. The project built 56 carnivore-proof bomas, protecting 2,133 livestock worth over \$340,000 and strengthening community livelihoods. Outreach expanded through 18 community meetings and film nights, and 240 minutes of radio programming reaching an estimated 253,000 people. WASIMA also launched Wildlife Clubs in Mpimbwe District schools, engaging 630 students and planting 4,400 trees to support habitat restoration. Combined with conservation workshops reaching more than 5,000 participants, these efforts are reshaping local attitudes toward lions and establishing a durable, community-led model for biodiversity conservation and long-term coexistence.

BOTSWANA
Communities Living Among Wildlife Sustainably (CLAWS)

BOTSWANA
CONNECT



PROJECT RANGER

PREVENTING A POACHING PANDEMIC

Granting funds to NGOs across Africa, specialising in anti-poaching.

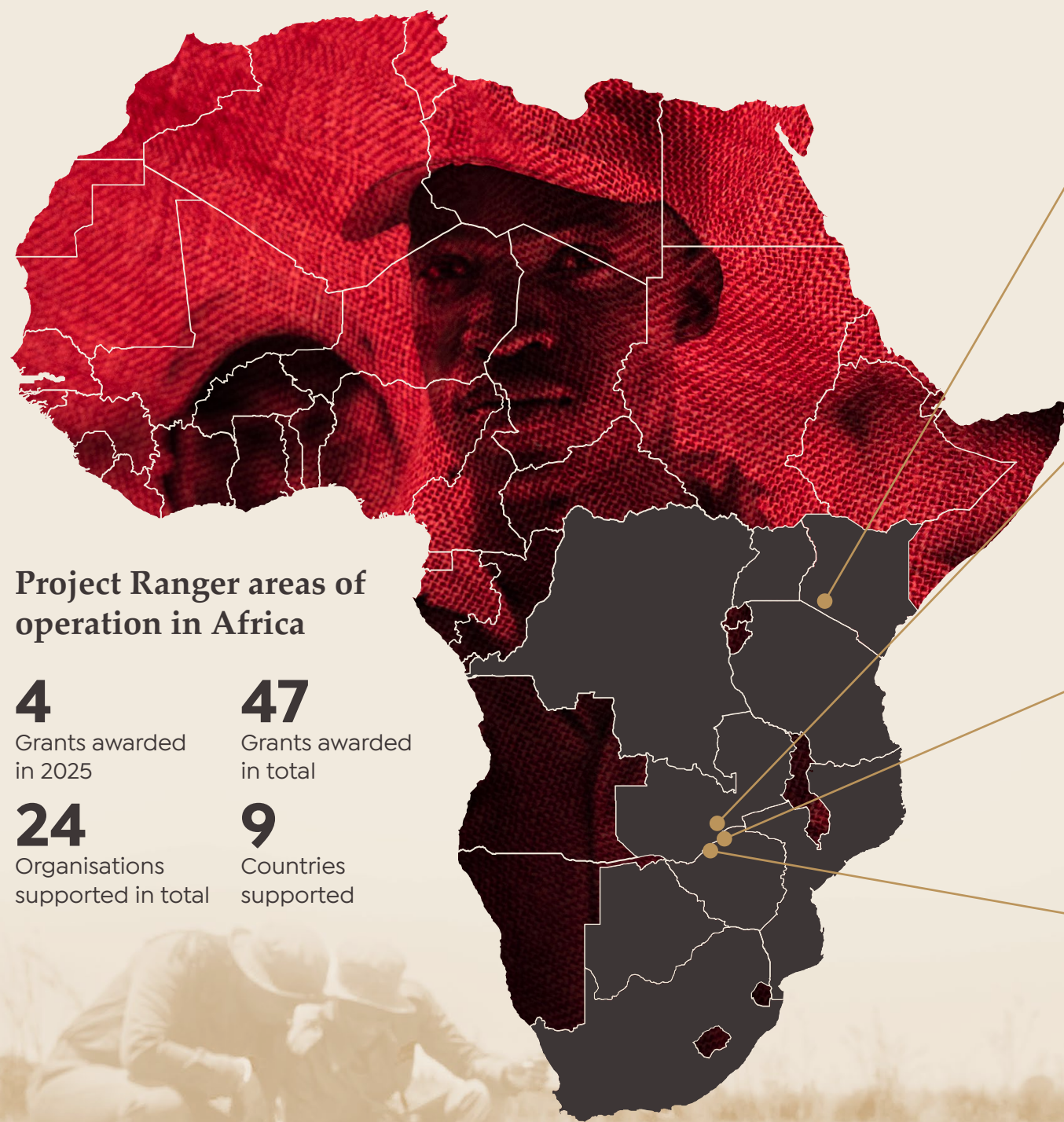
Wildlife Rangers serve as a constant presence in conservation, observing, protecting, and responding in real time to the pressures facing ecosystems. Their work is demanding, often under-resourced, and extremely critical to the long-term protection of biodiversity. Project Ranger began as an emergency intervention in response to the Covid-19 pandemic where travel and tourism were brought to a standstill, alongside their contributions to conservation and rangers. Project Ranger was started to support these ranger teams through funding, equipment, training, and operational capacity, both within our own landscapes and across key conservation areas. By strengthening Ranger welfare and capability, we reinforce the frontline of conservation where daily decisions and actions shape the future of wildlife and the ecosystems they depend on.





PROJECT RANGER

PREVENTING A POACHING PANDEMIC



Project Ranger areas of operation in Africa

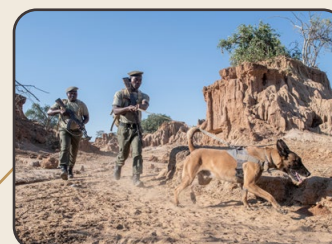
4 Grants awarded in 2025	47 Grants awarded in total
24 Organisations supported in total	9 Countries supported



KENYA

Enarau Conservancy, Maasai Mara

Established in 2022, Enarau Conservancy protects 1,271 hectares of the vital Maasai Mara ecosystem. This year, the conservancy significantly professionalised its security operations through a strategic partnership with Project Ranger. A cohort of eleven rangers conducted vigilant around-the-clock patrols, covering over 1,600 kilometres in a single quarter to combat illegal activities and restore local habitats. A major highlight of 2025 was the intensive five-week training programme focusing on leadership, physical fitness, and ambush preparedness. Notably, the cohort included Enarau's first female rangers, underscoring a commitment to gender inclusivity. To support the long-term well-being of this team, Project Ranger also funded the construction of modern ranger accommodation. These infrastructural and educational investments ensure that Enarau's guardians are well-equipped and highly motivated to safeguard this burgeoning sanctuary as a critical buffer for the wider Mara ecosystem.



ZAMBIA

Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ)

For nearly 30 years, Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ) has been vital for ecosystem protection in Zambia's Lower Zambezi National Park and surrounding game management areas. In 2025, Project Ranger funding supported salaries, medical supplies, and fuel for the Rufunsa Community Scout Unit. This support ensured the continuous deployment of the Rufunsa unit; enabling it to respond to poaching threats, and mitigating human-wildlife conflict across its area of operation. Project Ranger funds also supported the protection and maintenance of the Chilapira communications base. Finally, CLZ and the Great Plains team in the Sapi Reserve collaborated to track elephants translocated as part of Project Rewild that had moved from Zimbabwe into Zambia.



ZIMBABWE

Anti-Poaching Tracking Specialists (ATS)

Throughout 2025, the Anti-Poaching Tracking Specialists (ATS) strengthened protection across Zimbabwe's Savé Valley Conservancy, home to 25% of the nation's black rhino population. Responding to rising bushmeat poaching and organised rhino crime, ATS expanded intelligence networks and enhanced K9 operations, resulting in 164 detections and the removal of hundreds of snares. Supported by Project Ranger, a new court liaison officer was appointed to improve prosecution outcomes by monitoring cases and ensuring stronger judicial follow-through. By combining K9 patrols, dry-season waterhole surveillance, and legal advocacy, ATS continues to build an effective deterrent against wildlife crime while safeguarding rhinos, elephants, and other protected species.



ZIMBABWE

Bumi Hills Antipoaching Unit, Lake Kariba

The Bumi Hills Anti-Poaching Unit was a formidable frontline against illegal wildlife and ivory trades on the shores of Lake Kariba. Throughout 2025, Project Ranger provided funding for salaries, rations, and fuel for land and water-based patrols. This support enabled rangers to cover over 6,000 kilometres, reaching even the most remote areas by boat. The team removed nearly 900 snares and confiscated over 37 kilometres of illegal fishing nets, leading to multiple arrests. Most notably, BHAPU celebrated over seven years without losing an elephant to poaching, with zero snare-related injuries treated in 2025, a direct result of their methodical patrolling. The team reported a heartening resurgence in zebra and antelope populations, proving that consistent, well-funded enforcement is successfully securing a long-term future for Zimbabwe's wilderness.





PARTNERS



Big Life Foundation

**Botswana Ministry of Child Welfare
and Basic Education**

Bridging the Gap Africa

Chinhoyi University of Technology

CLAWS

Conservation Lower Zambezi

**Department of Wildlife &
National Parks Botswana**

EcoExist

The Guardian Project

Kenya Ministry of Education

Kenya Wildlife Trust

The Maa Trust

Mbirikani Cooperative Society

Okavango Community Trust

Shompole Conservancy

**Zimbabwe Parks &
Wildlife Management Authority**

FINANCIALS

In 2025, Great Plains Conservation Foundation recorded \$4.5 million in expenses. This represents 83% of expenses towards directly implemented programmes and grants, while maintaining low administrative and fundraising costs. We closed the year with a positive net operating income and a strategic reserve fund that is maintained at 20+% of the annual budget, ensuring programmatic stability and continuity and setting the stage for greater conservation impact in 2026.



THANK YOU

There is no version of this work that happens in isolation.

In 2025, your support enabled continued protection across critical landscapes, strengthened Ranger teams supporting their persistence in removing snares and monitoring wildlife, expanded community programmes, ensuring the return of species to ecosystems to which they have always belonged, and advanced the scientific understanding needed to guide our work. It allowed us to respond in a timely manner where needed, and to stay consistent where long-term commitment matters most.

Through passion, partnerships, and perseverance, we reached significant milestones: planting over 50,000 indigenous trees, installing 1,000 solar systems in homes in remote regions, successfully translocating threatened painted dogs to protected areas, and building bridges, classrooms, and training programmes that continue to strengthen communities alongside these ecosystems.

The collective impact can be seen in many forms; in healthier ecosystems, in species returning and adapting, and in communities building more resilient and self-sustaining futures. We do not take that support for granted. Ours is a model shaped by balance, between people and wildlife, between tradition and innovation, and between immediate action and long-term impact, all done with care, compassion and deep purpose.

Thank you for standing with us, and for being part of a collective effort that values life in all its complexity and connection.

*With heartfelt appreciation,
The Great Plains Foundation.*



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

PARTNERS

Great Plains welcome opportunities to collaborate with aligned partners, please reach out to info@greatplainsfoundation.com (or .org)

JOIN OUR MISSION



DONATING ONLINE:
www.greatplainsfoundation.com/donate

DONATING BY CHECK:

Donations can be made by mail within the US. Contact info@greatplainsfoundation.com (or .org) for our mailing address.

DONATING BY WIRE TRANSFER OR GIFTS OF STOCK:

Email info@greatplainsfoundation.com (or .org)

GIFTS IN HONOR / IN MEMORIAM:

Make a donation in honour of or in memory of someone special. For donations of \$50 or more, Great Plains can send an acknowledgement to the honouree or family member.

PLANNED GIVING:

Legacy planning is one of the best ways for you to support important causes that matter the most to you in your life.

Email info@greatplainsfoundation.com (or .org) to explore the ways you can make a difference today.

GREAT PLAINS EARTH PARTNERS

At Great Plains Foundation, conservation and community development is more than a mission; it's a partnership. Large-scale ecosystem conservation and biodiversity protection are ongoing tasks that require sustained support from partners. Great Plains Earth Partners is a community of monthly donors dedicated to protecting Africa's iconic wildlife, wild spaces, and the communities that safeguard these ecosystems, which sustain us all.

Great Plains, spearheaded by National Geographic Explorers at Large, Dereck and Beverly Joubert, is on a mission to expand and protect natural habitats for the health of the planet.



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GREAT PLAINS FOUNDATION

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We would like to thank Beverly Joubert for allowing us to include her wildlife fine art photography in some of the imagery included here.
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