



FROM THE FIELD

LATEST IMPACT UPDATES FROM OUR GREAT PLAINS INITIATIVES

2026 Q2 IMPACT REPORT | APRIL – JUNE



Hello everyone,

Opportunities to make a real difference are coming across my desk daily. This Q2 report shows the incredible work done in just one quarter. Since this we have started new, even more exciting projects and I think that is what Great Plains Foundation is good at: being nimble and picking up on emergency conservation and community projects, approving them quickly and getting on with it. Sure, we consult, do the science, and find out from stakeholders what they think, but ours is not a long, drawn-out process. Identify the issue, understand it and the ramification of our proposed actions, and then mobilise. Then we monitor for adjustments if there is a second phase or if we can add to the wider 'best practise' learnings.

In most cases we fund PhD students on our conservation projects or sit under a tree to discuss outcomes for our community projects with elders, and those who want a voice in the future. There is no one size formula when it comes to making a difference and that is why we appreciate your help, your feedback and commitment to what we do and your trust in us through your gifts. Sometimes we will have specific asks for a project, other times it is about having a war-chest available for these opportunities. Each is reported equally, as in this report.

We hope you enjoy reading about the achievements we have had together.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dereck and Beverly".

Dereck & Beverly Joubert
Founders, Great Plains Foundation

PROJECT REWILD

Translocations of wildlife and post-translocation monitoring

ZIMBABWE

From April-June, monitoring of the 101 elephants translocated to the Sapi Reserve in the Mid-Zambezi Valley in 2022 continued, with GPS collars, EarthRanger and field patrols tracking movements, habitat use and social adaptation. Three herds now in Zambia are monitored jointly with Conservation Lower Zambezi, using aerial and ground surveys to collect real-time data from both countries.

The translocated endangered painted dog pack achieved a major milestone, successfully denning in the region with 7 adults, 4 yearlings and 10 pups, and multiple kills recorded showing strong indicators of social stability and reproductive success. Comprehensive ecological assessments across the concession, covering habitat suitability, prey abundance, predator dynamics and water availability, have confirmed the site is ready for the planned reintroduction of another endangered keystone predator later in the year, marking further progress in restoring self-sustaining wildlife populations to the Mid-Zambezi Valley.



10 New painted dog pups born in the wild in Q2 from the 2025 translocated pack



13 Elephant herds translocated in 2022

6 New calves born wild so far

CRITICAL SPECIES PROTECTION

Monitoring and protection of critical species

BOTSWANA

Great Plains Foundation continued implementing intensive monitoring and protection of key conservation species, with a particular focus on the white rhino population. With the exceptional flooding throughout the Okavango Delta this year, helicopter and fixed-wing patrols were used to ensure daily patrolling continued. These efforts led to the exciting discovery of two new rhino calves in May.

In addition to the rhino population, particular attention was given to monitoring Southern Ground Hornbills and Wattled Cranes, both of which are considered conservation priority species. Southern Ground Hornbills, listed as near threatened, provide valuable insights into ecosystem health and habitat protection initiatives. Wattled Cranes, as a wetland-dependent species, indicate healthy undisturbed wetland ecosystems.



ILLEGAL ACTIVITY PREVENTION

Monitoring and mitigating illegal activity threatening wildlife

BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

In addition to ecosystem monitoring, Great Plains Rangers also work to prevent illegal activity, such as poaching. After reports of illegal fishing nets Great Plains Rangers and the Botswana Defence Force conducted a joint patrol, locating an illegal fishing camp and preventing further illegal exploitation of the aquatic ecosystem. This operation highlighted the importance of collaboration, rapid response, and consistent presence in the area.



2

New rhino calves born wild

FEMALE RANGERS

Training and hiring Female Wildlife Rangers from local communities

BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE



The Female Ranger programme continued to expand and strengthen women's participation in conservation across Botswana and Zimbabwe. During the quarter, ten new Female Rangers joined the programme (!) 6 in Botswana and 4 in Zimbabwe.

The new team members in Botswana completed a comprehensive induction covering First Aid, computer skills, physical fitness, GPS and GIS navigation, EarthRanger data collection, patrol procedures and species monitoring. In Zimbabwe the 4 new Female Rangers participated in an extensive paramilitary training with the Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks). The

women participated alongside 6 new male colleagues and other new recruits from across Zimbabwe. The training included physical fitness, law enforcement and field skills.

The Female Rangers in Botswana engaged local communities by participating in community outreach and education as part of Conservation Goals, a football and netball tournament. In Zimbabwe, Female Ranger team members continued to push toward the completion of advanced degrees in Wildlife Ecology, Conservation and Sustainable Development, engaged with donors and guests and carried out daily ecosystem monitoring, including spoor and road counts, painted dog pack monitoring, and fitness training.

CONSERVATION TEAM DEVELOPMENT

Building capacity and upskilling Wildlife Rangers

BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

In addition to the 10 new members of the Female Ranger team, the teams were also thrilled to welcome eight new male members of the Ranger team, 2 in Botswana and 6 in Zimbabwe. The 6 new team members in Zimbabwe participated in the ZimParks training alongside their female counterparts while in Botswana Rangers handed over a large canvas tent on behalf of Great Plains Foundation to a primary school, providing sheltered learning for children previously taught beneath trees. The teams in Botswana participated in the Diacore Gaborone Marathon and Fearless Fitness 10km series and teams from both countries began their training for the upcoming Wildlife Ranger Challenge.



8 New rangers Botswana
(6 women, 2 men)

10

New rangers Zimbabwe
(4 women, 6 men)

1

Marathon completed
by 6 Rangers

CONSERVATION

Biodiversity • Healthy Ecosystems • Endangered Species



ECOSYSTEM MONITORING

Monitoring Biodiversity and Mapping Ecosystem Changes

BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

BOTSWANA

Great Plains Rangers monitor both the Duba and Selinda concessions in northern Botswana, including wildlife observations, biodiversity surveys and habitat assessments. In the second quarter the team observed mopane trees displaying yellowing leaves associated with prolonged flooding and winter conditions. Recording these environmental changes contributes to understanding habitat dynamics and their influence on wildlife distribution.

ZIMBABWE

Monitoring the Sapi Reserve in Zimbabwe continued from April-June with both daily patrols and dedicated surveys. During May, our Rangers participated in the annual spoor count survey conducted across the region, in partnership with ZimParks. The spoor count estimates the distribution and abundance of large mammals, contributing to long-term monitoring informing management decisions. A new wildlife population estimation method was introduced, known as road counts. Road counts record wildlife sightings along designated routes. Combining road counts with spoor counts improves the accuracy and reliability of monitoring data.

CONSERVATION RESEARCH

Dedicated scientific research on critical species

ZIMBABWE

AFRICAN PAINTED DOGS

Vegetation surveys have been ongoing, contributing to habitat maps of different vegetation compositions, which determine habitat selection and competition among large predators in Mana Pools and surrounding areas. Within each habitat type prey populations differ, as well as visibility, which influence painted dogs' detectability of other large predators such as lions and hyenas, and therefore the spatial distribution of the painted dogs.

“This project will be crucial for understanding the complex dynamics of predator-prey interactions in the region. Habitat mapping will significantly enhance our knowledge of wild dog ecology.”

- Thomas Mutonhori, Great Plains Ecologist

AFRICAN SAVANNA ELEPHANTS

Research continued in assessing seasonal movement differences between translocated and resident elephant herds over time in the Mid-Zambezi Valley landscape. The research is showing differences in habitat use associated with post-translocation movements, providing interesting insights for adaptive management and monitoring.



3,139km Patrolled

CONSERVATION GOALS

Engaging youth in conservation through sport

BOTSWANA

The annual Conservation Goals tournament in Botswana was held in June with the aim to educate and inspire out-of-school youth in sustainable livelihoods and conservation. The tournament, bringing together 200 young people from communities living alongside the Okavango Delta, was preceded by training in each village on teamwork, life skills and conservation awareness including a Conservation Quiz with Great Plains Rangers. Both Netball and Football teams took part in the initiative, with a split of 75 girls and 125 boys.

The initiative demonstrated that sport generates social cohesion, leadership and opportunities, while encouraging responsible stewardship of natural resources. In addition to the 200 players, the tournament attracted large spectator crowds, offering business opportunities for local vendors and opportunities for conservation discussions with the Great Plains Wildlife Rangers.

“The tournament reminded us that protecting wildlife also protects our future. Sports brought us together, but conservation gave us purpose.”

“Before this training I only came to play football. Now I understand that conservation can also create jobs and support our communities.” - Conservation Goals participant



200 Youth hosted for sport and conservation

9 Tournaments held in total across all regions

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Educating and inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders

KENYA

KIDS CAMP KENYA

In April, Great Plains welcomed primary school students from around the Amboseli ecosystem for another memorable Conservation Education programme. Lessons covered wildlife protection, tree planting, and the importance of the Amboseli Ecosystem, including the tangible benefits the community derives from its wildlife. Kids learned to identify species, explored how weather patterns and human development affect animal populations, and were introduced to wildlife protection laws, including anti-poaching measures. Game drives and a nature walk brought these lessons to life, while mentorship sessions encouraged discipline and hard work.

The impact has been significant. Students left inspired to protect wildlife habitats, with the majority expressing interest in conservation careers, a promising long-term outcome. The Ministry of Education and parents welcomed the programme, with the community increasingly recognising itself as a vital stakeholder in safeguarding Amboseli's wildlife for generations to come.



60 Students hosted

SPONSORED TERTIARY EDUCATION

KWT's Conservation Leadership Programme continued to deliver strong results, with all beneficiaries sponsored by Great Plains Foundation improving their academic performance in their second semester. Nancy progressed into her industrial attachment at SORALO, gaining hands-on experience in camera trap servicing, vegetation monitoring and data management. Three new scholars joined Cohort 4 under Great Plains sponsorship, which introduces a restructured, competency-based curriculum. A two-day Mentorship & Leadership Camp, hosted and facilitated by alumni of the programme, brought together 43 young leaders, while a Graduate Impact Survey revealed lasting impact, with 75% of alumni still actively engaged in conservation initiatives within their communities.



6 Students currently sponsored

12 Sponsored in total



SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMME

Distributing nutritious meals to rural schools in Kenya to boost education

KENYA

Going into Term 2, the School Food Programme delivered maize, beans, cooking oil and salt to 55 schools across rural Kenya. The programme continues to enhance nutrition and health for 15,778 learners daily, while driving higher school attendance, which in turn increases government resource allocation to schools. By covering food costs, parents are able to channel their finances into other economic activities. Improved attendance is translating into stronger grades, boosting future opportunities for the students. Community members also benefited economically through food transport and distribution work.

“We really appreciate the Great Plains Foundation for the sustainable feeding programme, which has really impacted our school positively,”

- Mrs Dorothy, Headteacher, Entaamo Primary School.



SCHOOL SUPPORT

Reducing barriers to progress in school

KENYA

Guests of Great Plains Conservation supported a solar power installation project at Olare-Owang Primary School in the Maasai Mara, bringing proper lighting to classrooms, the dining hall and staff residential areas. Classroom lighting supports academic performance and student development, dining hall lighting improves hygiene and behaviour management, while staff quarters lighting aids teacher retention and preparation. The school community has expressed heartfelt gratitude for this generous, meaningful contribution, one that will leave a lasting impact on generations of learners at Olare-Owang.



55 Schools supported

15,778

Students supported daily

10.3 million

Meals donated in total since 2022

NABOISHO WOMEN'S GROUP

Sponsoring a women-led business in the Maasai Mara to support education and healthcare

KENYA

Beadwork remains a vital source of income for Maasai women, shifting traditional household roles as women increasingly become breadwinners alongside caretakers. The Naboisho Women's Craft Centre reported positive progress, with over 100 women from villages around the Nkoilale community producing beaded products and soap. The income generated from sales is used to pay school fees, buy food and improve home structures. Great Plains Foundation supports the centre with raw materials, staff salary support and purchases for camp curio shops across the Mara. Total sales reached \$1,860 between April and June. The centre continues to empower women economically, socially and culturally.

"Today, we come to the store as one of our normal offices. We come and connect with each other, sharing ideas as well as motivating each other. More importantly, we are now breadwinners in our households, paying school fees for our kids and it is an amazing story to tell."

- Naboisho Women's Group beneficiary



\$1,860

Generated in sales

\$52,656

Income generated in total

SMALLHOLDER FARMERS SUPPORT

Supporting sustainable farming practices to generate incomes in rural communities

KENYA, BOTSWANA & ZIMBABWE

Great Plains Foundation sponsors a variety of programmes aimed at supporting smallholder farmers and small-scale sustainable farming enterprises. This update focuses on the honey business of 75 farmers in the Maasai Mara, including youth and a group of widowed women. Honey production is driving economic progress across the region, offering a reliable, drought-resilient revenue stream independent of traditional livestock farming. Through sustainable apiculture, community members are gaining financial autonomy, funding essentials such as education and healthcare for their families. Diversified income also enables participants to invest in assets and take on greater roles in community decision-making. Producers are further trained to develop high-value byproducts such as beeswax for soaps and cosmetics, expanding earning potential and modernising a traditional food source into a sustainable, community-owned enterprise.



75

Beekeepers
supported in the
Maasai Mara

282

Smallholder farmers
supported in total
across Africa



WILDLIFE RANGER SUPPORT

Supporting partner conservancy ranger units

KENYA

Great Plains Foundation's support enabled Sera Conservancy, home to East Africa's first community-owned black rhino sanctuary, to maintain critical operations protecting black and white rhinos across Samburu County. The grant covered salaries for 117 staff, rations for 110 rangers and anti-poaching teams across nine camps, and vehicle fuel and maintenance, sustaining consistent patrol coverage with zero poaching-related incidents recorded. The conservancy also recruited 17 field staff and a Human Resource Officer to strengthen fence and rhino monitoring units and fully absorbed a specialised anti-poaching unit equipped with drones and K-9 support, extending protection across the wider Sera ecosystem.

PROJECT RANGER

Granting funds to NGOs across Africa specialising in anti-poaching

CONSERVATION LOWER ZAMBEZI (CLZ), ZAMBIA Project Ranger Grantee

CLZ's Ranger Protect funding supported anti-poaching operations across the Lower Zambezi National Park and surrounding Game Management Areas. The Rufunsa Community Scout Unit logged 1,885 patrol person-days covering 3,172km, while Community Scout Patrols achieved 1,954 person-days over 2,497km, disrupting poaching activity and recovering snares, bushmeat and poachers' camps. Aerial patrols by CLZ's Cessna 172 provided over 110 hours of surveillance, supporting the confiscation of illegal mining equipment. Across the full one-year grant period patrols totalled 15,676 person-days, resulting in 68 poachers and 73 illegal miners arrested; 308 snares recovered and 718 pieces of illegal mining equipment confiscated. Continued funding also maintained the Chilapira communications base, critical for real-time coordination and ranger safety.



CREDIT: FRANCOIS D'ELBEE

BIG CATS INITIATIVE

Grant funding to NGOs worldwide to projects with a focus on big cat conservation

KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST'S MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME, KENYA

KWT's Mara Predator Conservation Programme aims to strengthen cheetah conservation and community-based predator monitoring across the Greater Mara Ecosystem. In the second quarter GPS tracking of dispersing cheetah Nalala generated valuable data on movement patterns and habitat connectivity as he moved through multiple conservancies. Seven new 'Predator Ambassadors' were recruited and completed comprehensive training. Since deployment, the ambassadors have engaged more than 500 community members, monitored real-time collar alerts, and strengthened early-warning systems for human-wildlife conflict.

EWASO LIONS, KENYA

Between April and June 2026, Ewaso Lions continued strengthening community-led lion conservation across the Ewaso landscape in northern Kenya, holding eight meetings that brought together 164 participants. Sessions focused on community awareness and conflict mitigation, conservation education and practical approaches to reducing human-lion conflict. Discussions spanned multiple conservancies, including Westgate and Kalama, engaging warriors, women, elders and children in dialogue on livestock protection and coexistence.

AFRICAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND (AWCF), ZIMBABWE

AWCF's work with partners to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the Savé Valley Conservancy in Zimbabwe recorded 38 incident reports this quarter, including 16 lion attacks resulting in 22 livestock killed. Verifiers and herder-mentors trained 500 farmers on livestock safety, reinforcing 46 kraals and building 17 new ones, while 90 noise deterrents were distributed. Community awareness campaigns reached 1,672 people, covering conflict prevention and the ecological role of predators. A major milestone was a June workshop that brought together government, NGO, and conservancy stakeholders to begin drafting a new Lion Management Plan.

FUNDACIÓN PROYECTO PRIMATES, COLOMBIA

BCI's grant supported the final field season of field work on jaguar coexistence in Colombia's Middle Magdalena Valley. Funding purchased camera traps and covered field logistics, enabling sampling across four of six localities and a total of 10,588 camera-trap nights of data. Findings revealed that jaguar habitat use was most strongly linked to distance from secondary roads rather than overall human footprint, with wetlands potentially serving as important refuges. The research is laying the groundwork for a practical, community-informed jaguar conservation plan.



GRANT PROJECTS

Big Cats Initiative • Project Ranger

BIG CATS INITIATIVE

Grant funding to NGOs worldwide to projects with a focus on big cat conservation

WASIMA, TANZANIA

In the second quarter of 2026 WASIMA completed two new Lion-Proof Bomas, bringing the total to 119, protecting over 5,168 livestock worth more than USD 1.1 million. Their Lion Conservation Ambassadors completed 241 SMART patrols covering 1,842km, while the Lion Early Warning System was upgraded at two stations. Conservation education reached 4,973 community members and 900 schoolchildren. A new MoU with the Tanzania Wildlife Authority marks a significant institutional milestone for long-term conservation partnership.

CLAWS, BOTSWANA

CLAWS works to promote long-term lion monitoring and coexistence between lions and communities across the northern Okavango landscape. During the second quarter the team continued lion monitoring, observing several prides and coalitions. Information from safari guides and community members helped uniquely identify 63 lions across the study area so far in 2026, including 29 in the last few months alone. The team disseminated 369 lion alerts from three geofence breaches, though structured conflict research remains paused. Plans are underway to collar additional lions and conduct a new camera survey later this year, alongside continued community engagement and capacity-building training.

AGENCY FOR CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (ACD), SOUTH SUDAN

ACD's BCI grant supports big cat tracking and community education around Zeraf Game Reserve in South Sudan, where field surveys confirmed 24 African lions, 4 serval cats and 8 Nubian giraffes across 11 of 19 villages visited. 12 community awareness meetings and consultations with 87 traditional leaders, women and youth groups led traditional leaders to impose a five-cow fine for any lion killed, contributing to zero reported lion deaths since December 2025. A recce to the Sobat Corridor engaged over 100 community leaders and stakeholders.

KALAHARI RESEARCH & CONSERVATION (KRC), BOTSWANA

KRC helps the government and supports law enforcement efforts and community upliftment in the Wildlife Management Areas adjacent to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park in Botswana. Supported by a BCI grant, information from KRC vehicle, horse and aerial patrols led to 96 poachers arrested by government authorities in 2025 and 60 so far in 2026, alongside the recovery of 49 wildlife carcasses. With our assistance the government has also taken custody of 649 poaching-related items from poachers. The grant also funded a horseback scout programme employing nine community members. Information from KRC's scouts supported the safe translocation of three lions found near a village, including one now fitted with a tracking collar, reducing human-wildlife conflict.



WWW.GREATPLAINSFOUNDATION.COM | INFO@GREATPLAINSFOUNDATION.ORG



Facebook



Instagram



YouTube

TOTAL IMPACT

OF THE GREAT PLAINS FOUNDATION SO FAR

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

C O N S E R V A T I O N



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

60,817
Indigenous Trees Planted



PROJECT REWILD

SINCE 2022

Translocations of wildlife for conservation and
post-translocation monitoring

70
Giraffes

101
Elephants

68
Zebras

663
Impalas

17
Painted Dogs



WILDLIFE RANGERS

SINCE 2021

Hiring, training and equipping women from local
communities to become Female Wildlife Rangers

54
Wildlife Rangers Total

31
Female Rangers



RHINO CONSERVATION

SINCE 2015

Protecting endangered rhinoceros for future generations

87
Rhinos Translocated
as Rhinos Without Borders



PROJECT RANGER

SINCE 2020

Grant-based project funding anti-poaching
units across Africa

47
Grants in Countries

9



BIG CATS INITIATIVE

Grant-based initiative dedicated to supporting
big cat conservation efforts worldwide.

157
Grants in Countries
In partnership with National Geographic
SINCE 2009-2021

29

28
Grants in Countries
Since Great Plains Foundation Management
SINCE 2022

11



TOTAL IMPACT

OF THE GREAT PLAINS FOUNDATION SO FAR

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

COMMUNITY

 SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMME SINCE 2022 Nutritious meals to boost attendance, attention and progress 10.3 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 2,372 School Kids Hosted	 CONSERVATION GOALS SINCE 2019 Engaging youth in conservation and development through Netball and Football 1,444 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
 SMALLHOLDER FARMER SUPPORT SINCE 2023 Supporting sustainable farming 282 Farmers Supported	 WOMEN IN BUSINESS SINCE 2022 Supporting opportunities to empower women in enterprise 184 Women Empowered	 GREAT PLAINS EARTH ACADEMY SINCE 2020 Bringing vocational training courses to rural communities to boost employment rates in young people 152 Students Trained
 SPONSORED TEACHERS SINCE 2021 Sponsoring the salary of teachers to boost quality of education and support teachers 48 Teachers Sponsored	 SPONSORED STUDENTS SINCE 2023 Sponsoring students to attend Conservation Leaders Courses as the next generation of leaders 12 Students Sponsored	 BUILDING BRIDGES SINCE 2022 Providing communities with safe access across dangerous rivers to school and medical facilities 7 Bridges Built

