# NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

HIROLA CONSERVATION PROGRAMME | www.hirolaconservation.org



# Local schools join our efforts to save hirola

As part of our community outreach program, we targeted schools in a bid to create awareness of hirola conservation among pupils and students. Through this partnership, we showed wildlife conservation films and shared the profiles of hirola protected areas. We used this platform to also introduce our kids to the challenges faced by rangers in combating the poaching menace.



The outreach sessions were as interactive as the students were very excited about the lessons they learnt from the films and talks. Most students were also excited to share this experience with their parents and extended family members. Following these successful shows, the project is planning to take the students for a tour in our hirola conservancies to help them understand threats facing the species.





Video



Women group training.

View Blog..

### Media Coverage

The Conservation Africa is an independent source of news and views from the academic and research community. They recently featured our efforts on hirola conservation. Below is a link to the article.

Link..

# **HCP Gift Shop**

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

#### Updates from the hirola habitat restoration project

In our previous newsletter, we highlighted our efforts to restore the degraded grasslands for hirola through reseeding and manual tree removal program. This month, we are happy to report that we completed 1) setting up experimental plots 2) conducting seed bank studies 3) conducting grass nucleation planting in tree encroached areas. This has been an exciting endeavor and the communities are eagerly waiting to see the results. We promise to keep you up to date on the latest developments from the plots in our upcoming newsletters.

#### Hirola habitat restoration updates video



# Other field updates from the conservancies. Bura East Conservancy

Wildlife sightings included the endangered Grevy's zebra (two herds, total= 16, average=8; range=7-9 and 4 individual tracks were also reported), hirola (four herds, total=38; average=7, range=1-7), topi (two herds, total=11; average=5, range=7-4), giraffes (total=34; average=7, range=3-7) among other wildlife species.



# **Green Firefox Family**

Green Firefox is an upcycled jewelry business run by 17 year old Makenna Connolly that supports wildlife and environmental conservation. It is instrumental in creating conservation awareness amongst a young audience. They donate \$7 from each necklace and \$5 from each bracelet customer's purchase to an organization of their choice within Green Firefox family. HCP is now part of the Family. To support our work please use the code HIROLA at www.greenfirefox.com to receive 25% off your purchase, and choose the Hirola Conservation Programme at checkout.

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Ranger patrol data indicates they patrolled 21 clusters of their daily patrol routes, covering over 2100 km and clocking 2400 hours in May alone. A total of five snares were confiscated in the conservancy. Other wildlife threats such as charcoal burning activities (4 bags confiscated) and tree felling (1 case) were also documented during the patrols. On a sad note, one case of a crocodile attack along river tana was reported (read more in our blog section). Wildlife mortalities recorded in the conservancy include; one giraffe, 1 lesser kudu, 2 gerenuks and 4 hares due to nutrition deficiencies.



## Ishaqbini Conservancy

Hirola sighting reports from rangers indicate a total of three herds (total=21, average=8, range= 8-13) in the conservancy. Other wildlife sightings were as follows; common zebra (6 herds, average=14, range= 4-17), giraffe (4 herds, average=8, range=6-20) etc. There were no hirola calving's from the monitored herds in the conservancy. Fortunately, neither were there any human wildlife conflict cases.



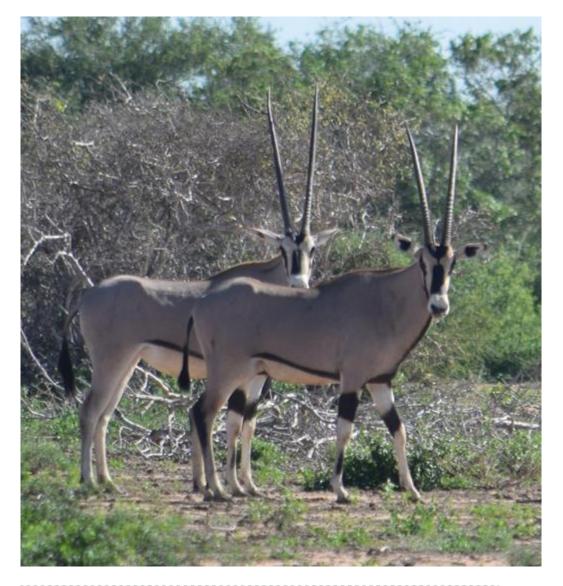
### Hirola Predator Proof Sanctuary

Our rangers stationed in the sanctuary have continued to report sightings of hirola herds totaling (8 herds, total=121, average=13, range=7-15), plain zebra (4 herds total=41, average=10; range: 4-16), giraffe (5 herds, total=56, average=11; range: 3-14) among other wildlife sightings. Mortality reports for the month indicate only one adult female lesser kudu succumbed to drought in the sanctuary.



# Sangailu Conservancy

The hirola monthly monitoring report indicates hirola (4 distinct herds, total=24, average=6, range=9-15). Other wildlife species that were sighted include buffalo (2 herds, total=14, average=7, range=6-8, kudu (3 distinct herds, total=21, average=7, range=8-13) among other wildlife species in the area. Only three adult buffalo were reported to have succumbed to the drought. On a positive note, no human wildlife conflict incident was reported in Sangailu.



Hirola Conservation Programme (HCP)

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