



FROM THE FIELD

LATEST IMPACT UPDATES FROM OUR GREAT PLAINS INITIATIVES

Q4 IMPACT REPORT | OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2022

The Great Plains Foundation continues to invest in communities, ecosystems and wildlife across Africa.

The last few months of 2022 were busy across the diversity of projects in Kenya, Botswana, Zimbabwe and beyond. Over the last quarter of 2022 our Female Ranger initiative hired new recruits in Botswana and Zimbabwe, with 9 new rangers starting their 12-month training program. Our rhino monitors reported a new rhino calf born in the wild and our Conservation Roots program has planted 1,211 indigenous trees in Kenya. Our Solar Mamas installed another 192 safe household solar power systems to families in Botswana and 8,260 kids received healthy school meals in Kenya. Project Ranger and Big Cats Initiative continue to support organisations across Africa in wildlife protection (including a special pangolin project). We hope you enjoy reading our 2022 Q4 Impact Report.

Thank you to the supporters of Great Plains Foundation initiatives, and our long-term vision of wildlife conservation and community upliftment across Africa.

CONSERVATION

Biodiversity • Healthy Ecosystem • Endangered Species



FEMALE RANGERS

Training and hiring Botswana's first Female Rangers from local communities for women's empowerment and conservation.



The training and development of our first intake of Great Plains Female Rangers continues with training in First Aid and GPS Usage, and intensive training time in the field. The Female Rangers have undertaken 552 hours of Natural Resource patrol in this quarter.

This quarter in October we employed our second intake of 7 Female Rangers from surrounding rural communities in Botswana to start their 12 months of training and experience in the field. Their training has begun with office-based training from Basic Admin to Excel Training, as well as their first weeks out in the field learning tracks & signs, bushcraft, wildlife monitoring etc.

Two of our Female Rangers joined the Great Plains Kids Conservation Education Camp in December teaching school kids what it takes to be a ranger and inspiring the young girls to work in conservation.



RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS

Protecting the endangered rhinoceros through security and monitoring.



As always, the monitoring of rhinos continues to be our priority, with our teams working around the clock patrolling and monitoring. This quarter saw the establishment of increased patrols. We welcomed 4 additional rangers to our teams, from a variety of conservation backgrounds including tracking, antipoaching, rhino conservation and research. The value that these rangers bring to our team will assist in taking our team to the next level not only in rhino conservation but also in biodiversity monitoring and research.

Skills development is a priority with all of our teams and our RWB is no exception. Our rhino rangers enjoyed a number of training courses this quarter, such as professional maintenance and first aid level 3. We focus not only on expanding the skills that are a necessity for their job but also the skills that we know peak their personal interests and career ambitions.

Our rhino monitors hosted educational classes to local school kids on all things conservation, as part of our Kids Conservation Education Camps.

1 **NEW RHINO CALF**
born in the wild!
5,026 
hours spent by rangers
on patrol in the field

PROJECT REWILD ZAMBEZI

Sapi Ecosystem Restoration



Having strong baseline data on an ecosystem is essential for conservation management plans. In October, we hired 2 new Female Rangers to join the biodiversity monitoring team based in the Great Plains-managed Sapi Reserve to monitor the ecosystem variables of the reserve. The ladies have undergone training over the last quarter in skills such as radio telemetry, GPS, SMART and operating Earth Ranger and AWT (an online platform for tracking satellite collars). The first month specifically involved tracking and monitoring both the translocated elephants and the resident herds. The monitoring includes general health, social interactions and spatial movements. The ladies also conducted tree identification exercises, land and water bird identification, large carnivore spoor identification and basic principles of GIS and remote sensing. The camera traps positioned around the reserve contributed 560 images to the database knowledge.

The build of a new Research Camp and a Monitoring Camp are underway with construction starting early 2023.

2 **NEW FEMALE RANGERS HIRED**

720 **HOURS PATROLLED BY GREAT PLAINS RANGERS**

CONSERVATION ROOTS

Planting indigenous tree species for ecosystem restoration, food security and carbon sequestration



This quarter has been busy in the nurseries of Great Plains, with the team planting 1,211 indigenous trees into the Mara ecosystem (including 741 of the endangered Green Heart Trees (*Warburgia Ugandensis*)). 460 of these trees were donated to community projects including 50 trees planted at our Naboisho Women’s Bead Group project and 310 to one of the schools we support in the Masai Mara. We have also opened a new nursery this quarter with 3,500 seedlings with 2023 being a year of scaling up our indigenous tree planting.

**1,211 INDIGENOUS TREES PLANTED INCLUDING
 460 PLANTED IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES**



24,326 
TREES PLANTED IN TOTAL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EDUCATION • EMPOWERMENT • WELFARE



SOLAR MAMAS

Bringing safe light and power to off-grid communities in rural Botswana.

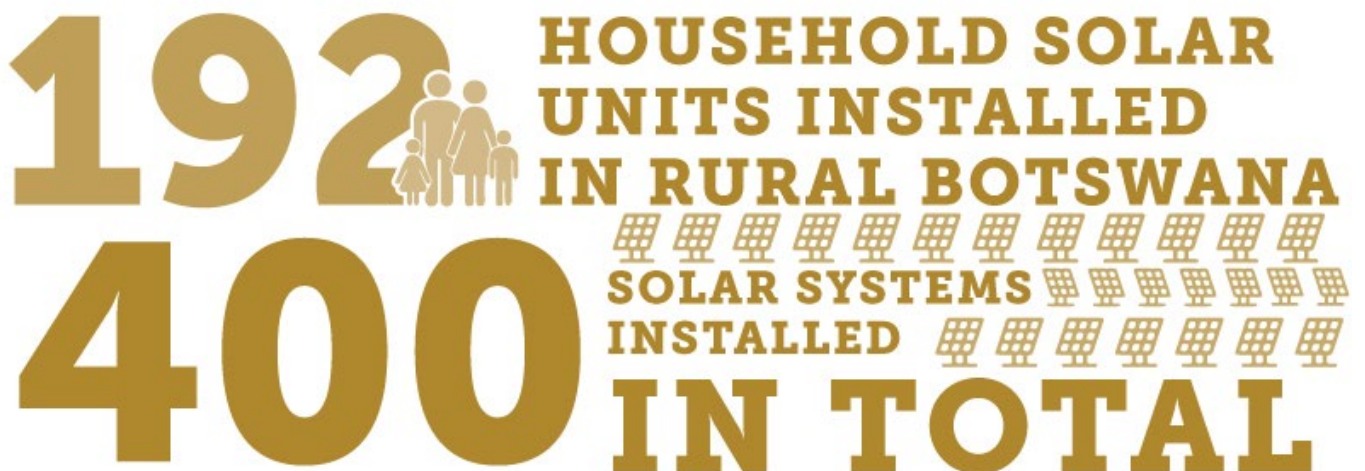


This quarter 200 new Household Solar Systems arrived in Botswana for our 8 Great Plains Solar Mamas to install to off-grid families. 192 of these systems have successfully been installed into off-grid households with families of school children to provide a safe light source for studying after dark.

During this quarter the Solar Mamas were assisted with extra skills training in project management, stock records and financial record keeping. 8 of the systems are being held back from installation for another round of extra training for the ladies.

“Our households are on the edge of the community here in Seronga. Usually throughout the year we share this area with elephants and they often come close to our houses. Now with the Solar Mama lighting that was installed on our houses, the elephants don’t come near anymore. With this benefit, all of us on the fringe of the community are now hoping to buy the solar systems to live together peacefully with wildlife.”

– Solar System Beneficiary, Seronga.



KIDS CONSERVATION EDUCATION, BOTSWANA & KENYA

Educating the next generation of rural communities on conservation



In December 2022 we hosted our latest Kids Conservation Education Camp, welcoming 50 primary school kids from rural communities in Botswana to Selinda Explorers Camp for a 4 day camp bursting with inspiring lessons in conservation.

This year the students enjoyed a mixture of game-drive education with our knowledgeable Great Plains safari guides with interactive lessons in camp. Our Great Plains Female Rangers held a class on what it takes to become a Wildlife Ranger protecting the natural resources in Botswana for generations to come.

Great Plains also supports The Maa Trust kids conservation education camps in the Masai Mara, Kenya. In December the 7-day camp was hosted for 35 kids (including 21 girls). The camp was bursting with themes of human-wildlife-conflict, swimming skills, educative game drives teaching kids on the importance of wildlife and their behaviours.

85 

**ENTHUSIASTIC SCHOOL KIDS
HOSTED AT KIDS CONSERVATION
EDUCATION CAMPS**

READ MORE about 'Young Explorers' Kids Conservation Education in rural Botswana

NABOISHO WOMENS BEAD GROUP

Generating an income for women in rural communities



Great Plains Foundation continues to support the raw materials for the Naboisho Womens Bead Group, as well as business training. Great Plains have been purchasing items from the ladies for the camps and setting up the production line to go to market. 25 women are trained to set up to manage a soap making workshop, and an expansion into bee hives and honey is starting in 2023. As part of our Conservation Roots program, 50 trees were planted at the Naboisho Women’s Bead Group centre in the Masai Mara.

105 WOMEN SUPPORTED

50 TREES PLANTED

SCHOOL SUPPORT

Supporting school meals boosts education, progress and opportunity.

Great Plains Foundation continues to provide nutritious food to school pupils in rural communities in Kenya to boost their performance and attendance in school. So far 8,260 kids are supported with a nutritious meal a day. Great Plains also supports teachers salaries to boost the educational experience in schools with smaller classes and opportunity to nurture each pupil to progress.

8,260 
SCHOOL KIDS IN KENYA SUPPORTED WITH 1 NUTRITIOUS MEAL A DAY
 **24 TEACHERS SALARIES SUPPORTED IN KENYA**

PROJECT RANGER

Granting funding to NGOs across Africa specialising in anti-poaching

Project Ranger Grantee

ANTIPOACHING & TRACKING SERVICES, ZIMBABWE



Project Ranger continues to support Anti-poaching Tracking Specialists K9 Dog Unit through salaries, rations, equipment, dog food and veterinary and puppy care. The ATS K9 Unit focuses on monitoring rhino populations and other wildlife by detecting poachers, recovering wildlife contraband, patrolling and recovering snares and marking arrests to ensure the wildlife populations remain protected.

A UNIT OF 12

K9 DOGS SUPPORTED

Project Ranger Grantee

SABIE GAME RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA

In the Sabie Game Reserve in South Africa Project Ranger has supported a pilot pangolin tracking program to help the reserve better understand of the movements of these beautiful, elusive and highly trafficked animals. The team have now tested the LoRa units to see their coverage over the reserve and are happy with the results. They are now looking at procuring the necessary LoRa, VHF and SAT units that will be used to track the pangolin.



Project Ranger Grantee

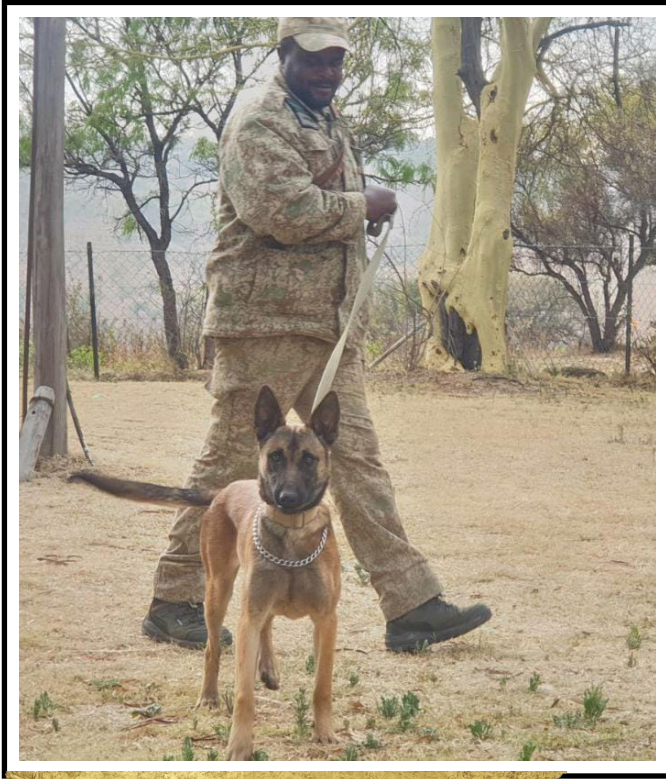
BUMI HILLS ANTIPOACHING UNIT, ZIMBABWE

Project Ranger continues to support Bumi Hills Antipoaching Unit working in Zimbabwe. The team were able to continue their vehicle, foot and boat patrols, totalling a distance covered of 6,177km. The team were successful in 14 arrests and 45 snare removals from the area. The team also reported a successful darting and treatment of a snared elephant female and removal of a cable snare from her rear left leg.



Project Ranger Grantee

PIT-TRACK K9 ANTI-POACHING UNIT, SOUTH AFRICA



Project Ranger's grant to Pit-Track, in partnership with the University of Washington-Seattle is focused on imprinting PitTrack's K9s on pangolin scat to facilitate the collection of Pangolin DNA samples and to better understand the sources and patterns of trafficked pangolin. In the 4th Quarter of 2022 PitTrack deployed to Sanwild Wildlife Sanctuary for imprinting and objective testing of the K9s for the Pangolin Research Project. The process of imprinting the dogs on pangolin scat process was extensive, and the PitTrack team are pleased to report that all the K9s excelled.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank Great Plains Foundation for the Grant allocation to help us with covering relevant salaries which saw us able to get to the end of December. Thank you for your continued belief in Pit-Track and the team as we make progress forward."

– Carl Thornton, Pit Track

Project Ranger Grantee

MOTHER AFRICA TRUST, ZIMBABWE

Project Ranger supported Mother Africa in salaries, equipment, uniforms, rations and training. The team is now at 13 rangers protecting the Amalinda Safari Collection concession in Zimbabwe. The team underwent rangers training in field patrol techniques, operational security, conservation ethics and teamwork.

“The Project Ranger funding significantly improved the welfare of Mother Africa Trust rangers. They were equipped with patrol equipment, anti-poaching gear and three big tents to accommodate all six female rangers that were recruited. It enabled us to pay wages for all our rangers for five months. The radio system improved communication between rangers and the supervisor whilst patrolling in the bush. Eight of our rangers that include both female and male rangers were equipped with complete uniforms.” – Mother Africa Trust.



Project Ranger Grantee

GIRAFFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION AND THE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE - KENYA

In the 4th quarter of 2022 Project Ranger made a grant to support the Giraffe Conservation Foundation – East Africa, in partnership with the Wildlife Research and Training Institute of Kenya to help tackle bushmeat poaching. The grant supports DNA analysis of seized bushmeat to facilitate the prosecution of bushmeat poachers in Kenya.

BIG CATS INITIATIVE

Granting funding to NGOs across Africa specialising in big cat conservation

Big Cats Initiative Grantee

PIT-TRACK K9 ANTI-POACHING UNIT, SOUTH AFRICA



In addition to the Pangolin Research Project funded by Project Ranger and University of Washington-Seattle, Pit-Track has also previously received a Big Cats Initiative grant to imprint their specialist detection canines on lion bone. The process of acquiring the appropriate permissions to acquire and possess contraband samples including lion bone is arduous and on-going!

Project Ranger Grantee

UGANDA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION



In the final quarter of 2022, the Great Plains Big Cats Initiative made a grant to the Uganda Conservation Foundation (UCF) to support their protection of and research into the health and status of the lion population in Kidepo National Park in Uganda. This work will help support Kidepo's existing lion population and provide an invaluable baseline should any reintroductions be necessary in the future. The funds helped support veterinary costs as well as basic operational support for UCF in support of the Uganda Wildlife Authority. We are also thrilled to have acted in partnership with Global Conservation to match each-others funding and help supply UCF with the resources they need to protect this vital wilderness. Conservation cannot happen in isolation, and we're thrilled to be able to collaborate with like-minded organizations to achieve meaningful change.