WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #17
September 11th, 2020

WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!
Stay connected to nature even when you are at home.

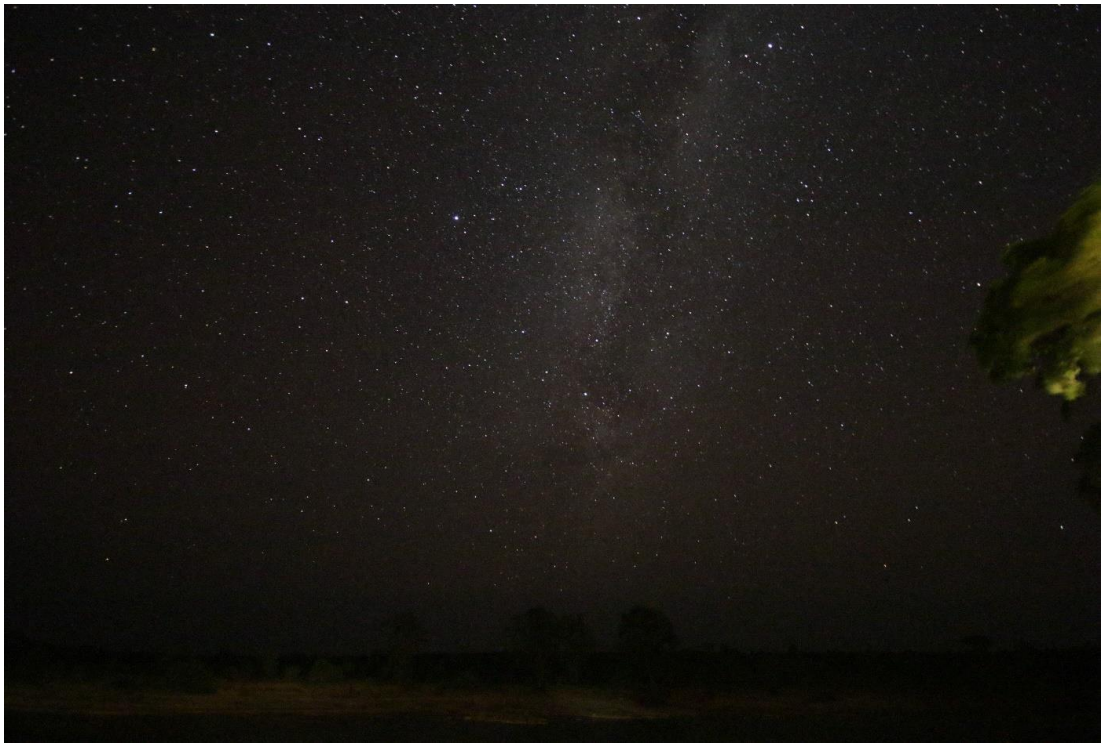
Welcome to our 17th edition. In this Issue, we learn more about Zebras! What comes to mind when you think of zebras? Do their beautiful, outstanding stripes perhaps make them the easiest wild animal to identify? **Please read on!**

Bianca Otero

Have you entered the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition? Look out for tips on how to take the Best photos so that you can submit **great photos** in the competition.

Stay with us on this fun filled adventure and always remember to share with your family and friends.

CONGRATULATIONS EVELYN



11 –year-old, Evelyn den Haring from Kenya won the Runner Up in the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition Junior Category on the theme **Wild Landscapes.**

The Judges were impressed by the stunning image of the night sky noting that it is not always easy to capture the milky way. **Can you see it**?

Evelyn's caption for the photo was
" This is what you see in cloudless nights"

Season 2 of the Nature's Treasures Competition has Started!!! Submit 3 photos on the theme
'Funny and Cute Wildlife'
by 25th September.

We spoke to Evelyn about her image and here is what she had to say.

Q: Where did you take the Photo?

A: Tsavo East National Park

Q:What Camera did you Use?

A: Canon EOS 7D Mark 2

Q: What is the story behind the image?

A: It was at night and I wanted to capture the beautiful night sky. The sky is always clear and beautiful in Tsavo since there is little to no light pollution in the area.

Q: What is the best advice you have been given on wildlife photography?

A: You have to think of how your image will look like before you take it.

Q: Any advice for young photographers?

A: Always keep your camera steady especially when you know you might need to move so that you avoid blurry images.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS

NATURE'S TREASURES PHOTO COMPETITION

Prizes!

Professional Category
Winner KES 5000
Runner up KES 3000

Amateur Category
Winner KES 3500
Runner up KES 2000

Junior Category (Under 15 years)
Winner KES 2000
Runner up KES 1000

Open to photographers in East Africa!

Theme: FUNNY AND CUTE WILDLIFE (Sept 12th to Sept 25th)
Enter up to 3 photos to bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA

WILDLIFE DIRECT | African People & Wildlife | OGO-LAW The green brief | TONYWILD Wildlife . Media . Impact | GORILLA CONSERVATION COFFEE | WILDLIFE WARRIORS

Nature photography provides children with the opportunity to be innovative.

Are you 15 years and below? Please submit your photos under the Junior Category and encourage your age mates to take part in the Wildlife Warriors Nature's Treasures Photo Competition here. You could be a **WINNER**!

http://bit.ly/WildlifeWarriorsEA

Go Out. Explore. Take Photos. Share

UNDERSTANDING ZEBRAS

Common Zebras drinking water

Vocabulary

Stallion – A male zebra

Mare – Female zebra

Foal- A baby zebra

Mares – A group of female zebras.

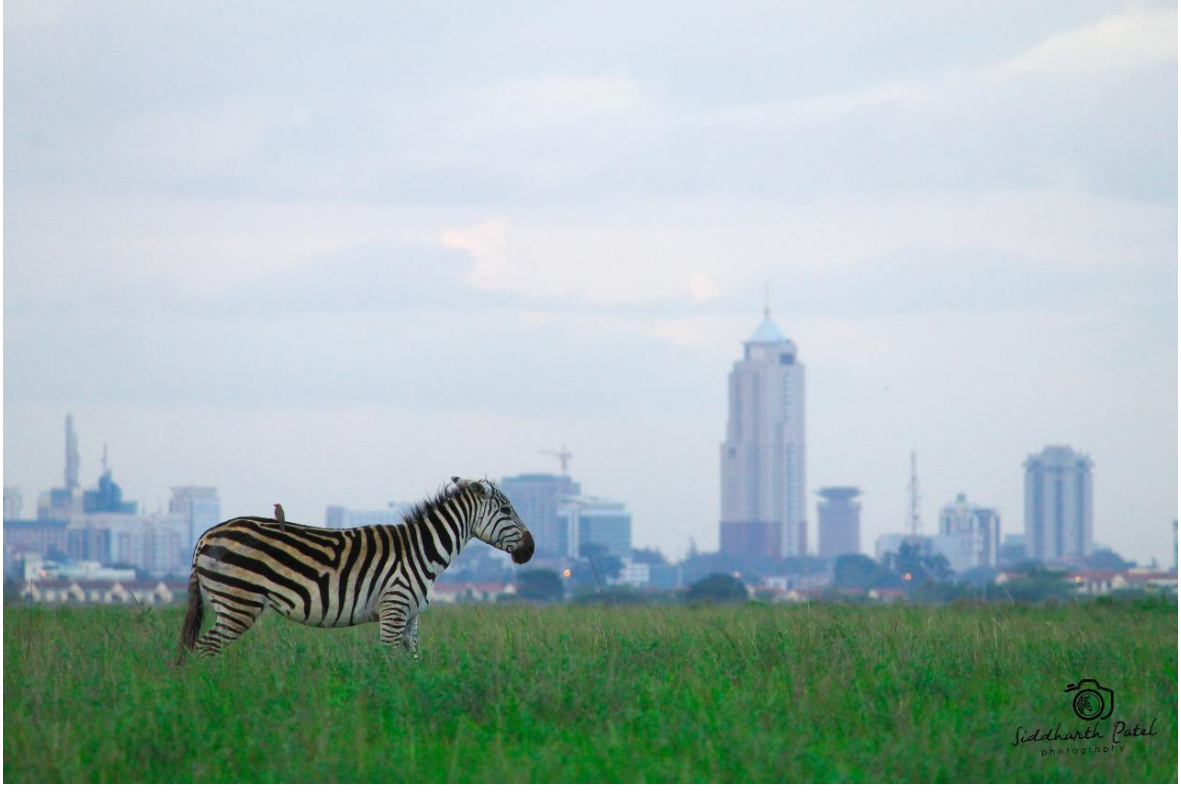
- Zebras are closely related to horses and donkeys as they are part of the *Equidae* family.
- There are three species of zebra in the world and all are native to Africa.

UNDERSTANDING ZEBRAS

- Are Zebras **white with black stripes** or **black with white stripes**? Zebra skin actually is black covered with black and white striped coats.

- The zebra stripes confuse predators like lions and leopards, and distracts insects.

- The stripes also help in regulating the zebra's body heat by dispersing incoming heat.



Common Zebra by Siddharth Patel

- Zebras sleep while standing but only when they are in large groups.

Each zebra has a unique pattern of stripes just like fingerprints are unique to an individual human.

MOUNTAIN ZEBRA (*Equus zebra*)

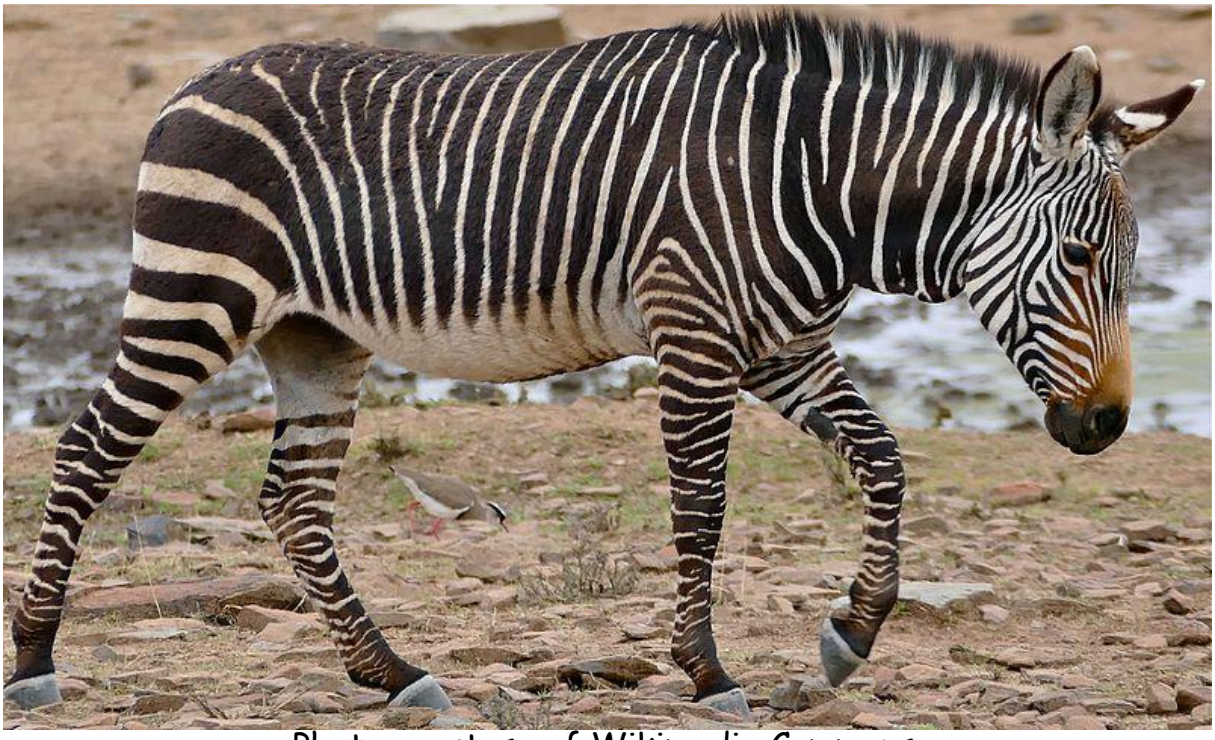


Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
(https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cape_Mountain_Zebra_(Equus_zebra_zebra)_(33007816806).jpg)

- Mountain Zebras are the second largest zebras with a weight of about 260 -370kgs.
- They have black and white stripes all over their body except for the belly.
- They have sharp pointed ears that reach up to 8 Inches.

There are two Subspecies of mountain zebras;

- The Cape Mountain Zebra- native to South Africa.
- Hartmann's Zebra found in Namibia and Angola.

COMMON ZEBRA (*Equus quagga*)

Common Zebras by Ken Gitau

The Common Zebra is the most widespread species as they are found across Eastern and Southern Africa in areas where there is water; they drink water daily.

- They are smaller than the Mountain Zebras with a weight of between 222 kgs to 284 kgs and a height of about 1.2 meters.
- They have broader stripes that run across their underbelly.
- Zebras can recognize one another from their stripe patterns.
- They have sharp pointed ears and a black nose.

Zebras greet one other through nose-to-nose touch and sniffing the body.

GREVY'S ZEBRA (*Equus grevyi*)

Grevy's Zebra

- Grevy's Zebras are the largest and tallest of the three zebra species with a weight of 350 kgs – 450kgs.
- They have narrower stripes, a white belly, a black dorsal stripe running along the spine to the tail, large rounded ears and a brown nose.

Grevy's Zebras by Paul Obuna

- Grevy's Zebras communicate using postures, displays and different noises such as braying, squeaking and many more to call or warn others.
- Grevy's Zebra are social and can form groups of up to more than 150 individuals.
- Males live in bachelor herds or as lone territorial males.
- Foals are capable of running and following their mothers within hours after birth.

A Grevy's Zebra mare with foals by Ken Gitau

- Grevy's zebra can go without water for up to five days but females with young foals must drink at least every day.

- Mothers with foals always form nursery groups. Several foals are always watched over by an adult when mothers have to travel long distances for water.

- Grevy's zebras are considered endangered as their population has reduced from 15,000 in the 70's to only about 3,042.

- Kenya is home to over 90% of the total population of Grevy's zebras and therefore we need to ensure their protection.

Article courtesy of Mpala Live

THREATS FACING ZEBRAS

In Kenya, hunting of Grevy's for their skin caused their rapid decline in the 1970's until a total hunting ban came into effect in 1977.

Common Zebras at Nairobi National Park by Seyan Hirani (13 years)

The main threats facing zebras currently are;

- Habitat loss caused by human activities such as agriculture and livestock grazing leading to food and water competition with livestock.
- Illegal hunting of zebra for meat and skin.
- Increase in diseases affecting zebras.
- Infrastructural development such as roads.

MEET ROSEMARY WARUNGU

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: My name is Rosemary Warungu. I was born and raised in Muthuini, in Nyeri county. I went to Laburra and Muthuini Primary Schools.

In 1996, I joined Gataragwa Secondary School but dropped out due to lack of school fees and later joined Iruri Secondary.

After high school, I joined Mathenge Technical Institute in 2001 and did a Mechanics course for 3 years. I have been studying Grevy's zebras in Laikipia and Samburu counties for 12 years now.

Q: How did you get interested in Zebras and why.
A: I got interested in zebras after going for several game drives at Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

I liked their beautiful stripes and how they behave. My passion for wildlife and zebras came through a friend. She taught me about the social structure of zebras through stories and videos. I then started studying zebra behaviour with her.

Q: How can you tell the difference between a male and female Zebra?

A: A female has a wide black vertical stripe between the buttocks about 2 to 3 inches wide while the male has a narrow stripe about 1 inch wide. Sometimes male genitals are visible and sometimes they are not.

Q: What is the most unique thing that you have discovered about Grevy's Zebras?

A: They have No permanent social bonds among adults and they rarely mutual groom.

Q: How would a young person get involved in Zebra conservation? What do they need to study?

A: By joining a Wildlife Warriors Kids Club, Wildlife Club or Environmental club in school, they can gain more knowledge on zebras and other wild animals. One can also contribute to Zebra studies by taking part in wildlife censuses like the Great Grevy's Rally (GGR).

Sarafina (16) Oljogi Primary School taking a photo during GGR 2020 by Trish Sewe

Q: What can we do to save the zebras?

A: Manage our land use, community outreach, and engage school children in conservation programmes.

Grevy's Zebra by Marto Wanjohi

Q:What advice would you give to kids?

A: To be keen and observant every time they go for a game drive or game walks, join wildlife clubs where they can learn more about conservation when they are still young. That way we shall have wildlife ambassadors for the next generation.

Watch Rosemary Warungu, an extraordinary Kenyan scientist who is at the forefront of extraordinary research on the endangered Grevy's Zebra in Laikipia on this episode of Wildlife Warriors here👇
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LNBBr2GvSA)

WILD JOKES! 🤣

Q: What is the kid of an Alligator, Giraffe & Zebra called?
A: Al-ge-bra.

Q: Why do Zebra have stripes?
A: To avoid being spotted.

Q: Who would win in a fight between a Kangaroo and a Zebra?
A: The Zebra because she has many black belts.

Q: Why do Zebra like Michael Jackson?
A: Because it don't matter if you're Black or White.

Q: Why didn't the Chicken cross the road?
A: Because it was a Zebra crossing.

Q: What do you call a crossbreed between a Donkey & Zebra?
A: A Debra.

Q: What do you call a male Zebra?
A: A Zebro.

Wild jokes courtesy of Eric Sasia

GREAT GREVY'S ZEBRA RALLY

- Great Grevy's Rally is the national census of Grevy's Zebra by scientists and members of the public including children.

- **The Grevy's zebra rally** involves counting of Grevy's zebra by taking photographs of the right side of each zebra with a camera using special software to know their population numbers, age region.

Grevy's Zebra by **Mike Lesiil**

- The first Great Grevy's Rally census was done in January 2016 with over 350 people across five counties. Less than **2,500** Grevy's zebras were counted.

- In 2018, more than 30 children from Nairobi and Laikipia participated in the rally in which 2,812 Grevy's zebras were counted.

- This year in January 2020, about 500 people including 50 children from 7 schools worked together to find and photograph more than 3,000 Grevy's zebras.

Children learning about Zebras at Mpala Research Centre during the Great Grevy's Rally

During the GGR, children learn more about the zebras directly from the scientists, researchers, and conservationists who are working on these projects.

ART FOR WILDLIFE

Do you have a drawing, painting, essay or poem you would like to share with other kids?

Please send a photo of your drawing/painting, poem or essay via WhatsApp to 0746 511 787

A Wildlife Warrior in the News!

NATION BETA ☰

A teen's wild dream to save Africa's jumbos

Thursday September 10 2020

Tiassa Mutunkei began championing for the protection of wildlife at 14 years old.

Tiassa Mutunkei is among the pioneers of Wildlife Warriors Kids and the founder of Teens4Wildlife.

She began her amazing journey by attending one of WildlifeDirect's events and has never looked back.

Tiassa has just returned from school at the African Leadership Academy in South Africa, where she got admission because of her love and passion for conservation.

To read more about Tiassa's amazing journey, click on; https://nation.africa/kenya/life-and-style/mynetwork/a-teen-s-wild-dream-to-save-africa-s-jumbos-1936380

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP NATURE

NATURE TREASURE HUNT PART 2

Making a Specimen Museum

After you have collected samples of leaves, flowers, insects, grasses or feathers that you found on the ground and recorded in your special book, you can make a ***specimen museum.***

This means, you assemble all the samples, label and display them.

Ndovu team putting together their specimen museum during the Wildlife Warriors Kids Expedition

What you need

- Manilla paper
- Felt pen
- Cello tape/glue
- Collected samples

Stick all the specimens you have collected on a manila paper with labels and information about each sample.

Share with us what you have done to help nature this week by sending an SMS or WhatsApp text to 0746 511 787

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA

In 2001 in Botswana, an organisation called Elephant Without Borders put satellite collars on elephants which led them to discover that they were moving back to Angola after many years in refuge from the Angolan war.

This Sunday on MY WILD AFRICA tune in to Citizen TV Kenya at 5:30 PM EAT and discover what happened.

Watch the film with your family and tell us what you think by sending an SMS or WhatsApp message to 0746 511787

COMING UP… DON'T MISS

Common Zebra By Adarsh Nagda
(11 years)

- My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm on **September 6th , 2020**
- International Snakebite Awareness Day is on **September 19th, 2020**
- World Rhino Day is on **September 22nd , 2020**
- World Gorilla Day is on **September 24th , 2020**

FOR PARENTS

- Please tell us what you think of this newsletter by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

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Contact us on: +254 746 511 787

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