



*Protect, Conserve, Inspire*



KAREN BLIXEN  
CAMP®

### Helicopter Report October



*Dr. Limo cuts one of the 11 arrowheads from an injured elephant*

#### **Narrative:**

This month we have made a fantastic break-through on the funding for the helicopter operations! Ms. Sue Anschutz-Rodgers pledged 35,000USD for fuel and maintenance of the helicopter. Sue's donation is the single largest donation and equates to 117 hours of flying time. Thank you very much Sue, from myself, the MEP team, and the elephants in the Mara!

This month was the first time we completed a full recce of all the collared elephants in the Mara Ecosystem. We managed to view and photograph 14 of the 17 collared elephants spanning an area of 11,500Km<sup>2</sup>. The flight took 5.2 hours to complete with 2 refueling stops at KWS and the MEP headquarters. Using the Save the Elephants aerial monitoring form we managed to gather important data on herd sizes and structures, proximity to people, water and livestock, check VHF beacons, and general condition of the herds. We did not get a visual of elephant "Lucy" because

she was in thick forest. We were also unable to visit 2 collared elephants in Tanzania. We will continue to furnish these flights once per month.

One notable operation was when an elephant herd went into farms and was attacked by farmers. We managed to mobilize the KWS Vet though the DSWT Sky Vet program to treat the wounded elephants. The worst hit elephant had 11 arrowheads stuck in her skin all over her body. Dr. Limo and team managed to pull/cut them all out. We also deployed a collar on her. This will enable us to monitor recovery and get valuable data from a crop-raiding elephant.



*The arrowheads removed from the wounded elephant on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October*

#### September Flight Report

Date	Time	Amount	Operation	Pay source
1/10/16	3.52	\$1,056	Flight to Lewa via Nanyuki and back to Mara	KBC
5/10/16	1.4	\$420	KBC usage Mara	KBC
26/10/16	0.92	\$276	Chase elephants out of farm in Rehero	MEP
27/10/16	1.24	\$372	Chase elephants out of farm in Ol Donyo Erinka	MEP
28/10/16	5.27	\$1,581	Monitoring all the collared elephants (15 elephants)	MEP
29/10/16	1.32	\$396	Move wounded elephants out of farms in Olosukut	MEP
29/10/16	3.08	\$924	Collect vet in Narok, medication in Nbo, dart gun in MMNR	MEP/DSWT
30/10/16	0.27	\$81	Crystal Courtney/Maa Trust Meeting	MEP
	17.02	\$5,106		





*Elephant “Santiyan” photographed on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October near Mosiro Center*

**Focus for October:**

Continue with hanger: Stone on site, sand and gravel being moved to the site. Construction start planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Settle outstanding accounts: **Not Done**

Complete 300hr inspection and service: **Booked for service on 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

**Focus for November**

Complete 300hr check and track and balance of blades

Settle outstanding accounts

Start hanger construction

Complete monitoring and recce flights