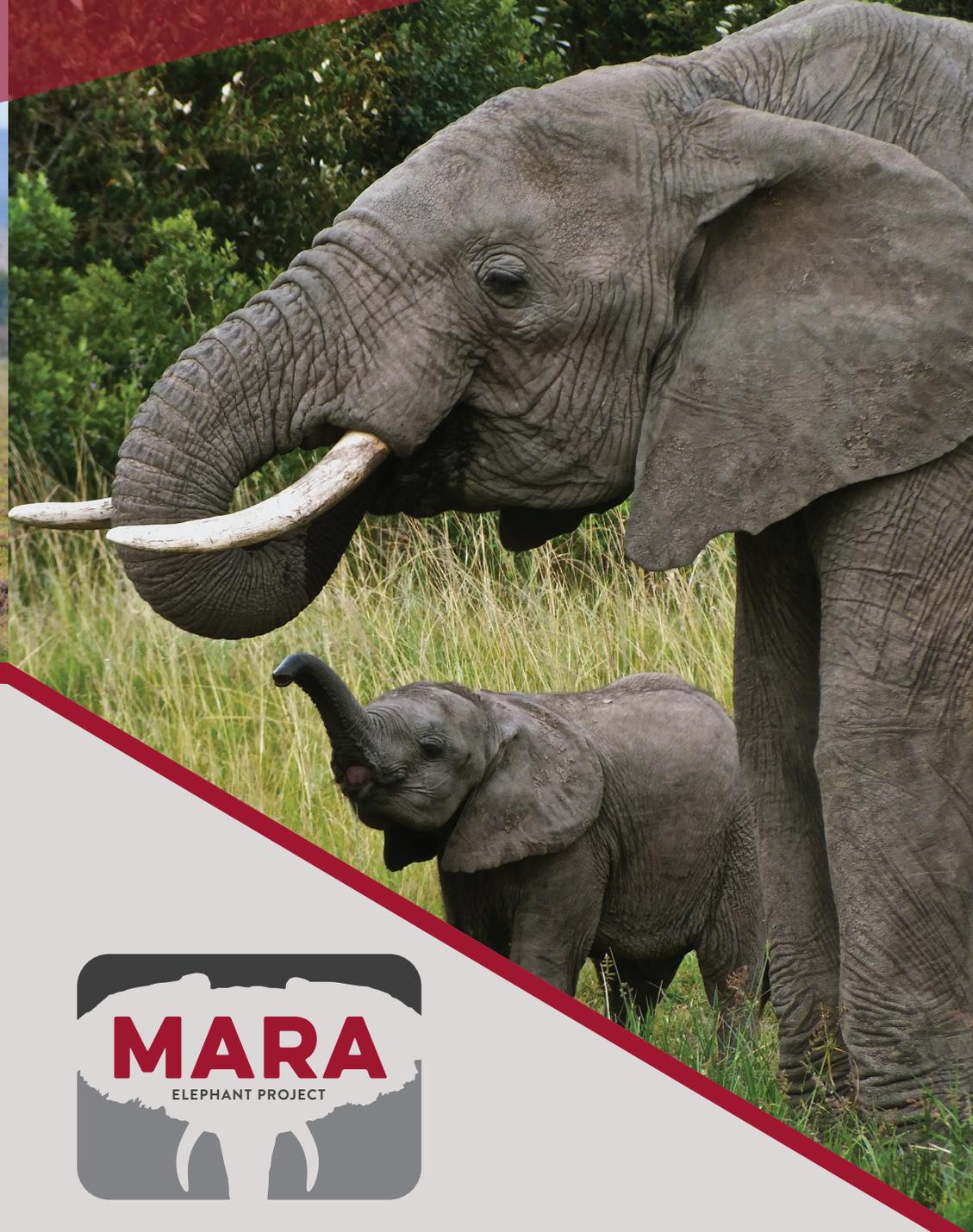


“MEP is a critical partner of the Kenya Wildlife Service in protecting elephants on the frontline and has played a key role in reducing the level of poaching and rapidly responding to human-elephant conflict in the Mara.”

– Collins Omondi, Senior Warden,
KWS, Narok County



YOUR SUPPORT

Together we can make a difference and ensure that the Mara’s elephants are here for generations to come.

We need funds to expand our areas of operation to cover a wider geographical area into the remaining unprotected areas of the Mara where many elephants traditionally range. Added to this, MEP continues to receive requests for assistance, which we are not always able to respond to due to limited resources.

As a non-government organisation we rely solely on the support of concerned individuals like you to help us secure a future for elephants and, as a consequence, other wildlife. We need to act urgently.

GET IN TOUCH

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**PROTECTING ELEPHANTS TO CONSERVE
THE GREATER MARA ECOSYSTEM**

The Mara Elephant Project is a registered non-government organisation in Kenya.

The ESCAPE Foundation does business as MEP in the USA and is a 501(c)(3) registered charity, www.ESCAPEfoundation.org

THE CRISIS

There are an estimated 352,000 African elephants left in the wild according to the 2016 Great Elephant Census. From 2007 to 2014 between 25,000 – 35,000 elephants were killed yearly for their ivory; that's one elephant killed every 15 minutes, putting devastating pressure on the population.

In the twenty-first century, more than any other time in history, elephants are under a greater threat from increasing human encroachment on their rangelands resulting in habitat loss.

In ecological and conservation terms elephants are considered a “landscape species.” They require a large and diverse area to live; have significant impact on the structure and function of natural ecosystems; are culturally and economically important and are particularly vulnerable to human related land-use and other practices. The protection of elephants is the protection of biodiversity.

The greater Maasai Mara region, sharing its border with the vast Serengeti ecosystem, is Kenya's most important wildlife area and home to approximately 3,000 elephants. The Mara-Serengeti has one of the largest and most diverse large mammal migrations on earth.

Poaching and rising levels of human-elephant conflict threaten elephants in the Maasai Mara, as human development continues to expand into traditional elephant rangelands, resulting in diminishing space for elephants and other wildlife and hence, very significant declines in their populations.

OUR APPROACH

In response to these threats the Mara Elephant Project (MEP) has developed an effective number of interdependent programmes including:

ANTI-POACHING

MEP has trained and deployed a team of over 30 rangers from the Mara to conduct regular patrols and provide rapid response to safeguard elephants from poaching and intervene in human-wildlife conflict situations.

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT MITIGATION

MEP works with local communities who live alongside elephants, providing a rapid response to resolve human-elephant conflict and support to the community through development projects.

ELEPHANT COLLARING AND RESEARCH

MEP currently monitors 22 collared elephants with GPS collars, which enable us to track elephants and their movements 24/7. The near real-time collar data is a tool to ensure the security of more than 600 elephants and deploy rangers to monitor the collared elephants and their associated herds daily.

The Mara Elephant Project was established in 2011, in response to the escalating elephant poaching crisis in the Mara, and throughout Kenya. In 2012, the first year of operations, 96 elephants were killed for their ivory in the Mara ecosystem.



Contrast that with eight elephants poached in 2016 – only five years later. A number of factors have contributed to the decline in poaching but MEP with its intelligence network, collaboration with other conservation agencies and anti-poaching teams has undoubtedly made a major contribution.

As poaching has declined, human-elephant conflict (HEC) is increasing. HEC is not only the greatest single threat to elephants but is also a major challenge to the livelihoods of those who live in close proximity to elephants. In 2010 only two elephants were killed as a result of HEC, in 2016 this number had increased to 14. Farmers can lose whole fields of crops in a single night along with fences and maize barns destroyed.

These new threats pose multiple challenges to those trying to protect elephants and at the same time safeguard the interests of people. MEP has been at the forefront of innovative approaches to mitigating HEC and responding to conflict situations, but a lot more needs to be done if we are to protect our elephants and those that live in their close proximity.

Monitoring of Illegally Killed Elephants in Northern Mara

