Protect, Conserve, Inspire

REPORT
April and May 2017

On the 28th of April two bulls were stranded in farms in Tanzania. We were able to move one of the bulls to safety the second bull was killed by the farmers. TANAPA managed to secure the tusks.

General

Although we received some rain, the area is drying up fast, and grass available inside the conservancies is minimal. During April large cattle herds migrated to conservancies around the Mara from as far as Kajiado County in search of grass. Lemek Conservancy, where the MEP HQ is, hosted over 15,000 head of cattle. We expect them to leave by the 5th of June and toward the end of the reporting period large numbers of zebra were approaching the Kenya border from Tanzania in the Loliondo area.

Drones are starting to be licensed in Kenya as confirmed by the National Intelligence Service (NIS). We will concentrate on getting approval and host a demonstration. This has been a long time coming and we hope to finally be able to use drones to mitigate HEC soon.

Some of the key activities in the last two months:

- Gearing-up for increased HEC as the area dries up and crops ripen.
- Supporting elephant security in both Loita Forest and Mau Forest with KWS.
- MEP presented at the Tribe Hotel in Nairobi to a set of key individuals on April 27th.
- Re-collared Mytene in Tanzania on the 25th of May.

The two dead elephants from Magadi/Shompole area.

Partnership Development
MEP has applied to the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) to collar 10 elephants on the western border of the Serengeti. TAWIRI Director General and the research committee met in mid May to review applications and will respond in the beginning of June.

WWF will finalize the MEP contract in June and write the completion report in June. We will be applying for the same amount of $30,000 in the 2017-2018 financial years.

On the 8th of April MEP and ESCAPE Foundation attended the first management plan meeting for Lemek Conservancy in the town of Bomet. Lemek Conservancy has joined together to move forward with the planning process and MEP will continue to advise and support the process and implementation where we can. The MEP HQ is inside the conservancy and we continue to conduct joint security patrols and HEC work with the conservancy rangers.

We continue to support the joint operation team operating along the Mara River from Mara North Conservancy to Ol Choro Conservancy. We hope that other partners will assist to keep the team going as we continue to deploy our assets to the areas of most need/conflict.

In response to increased conflict in the southern Transmara, MEP plans to partner more closely with the Mara Conservancy to react to conflict in this area.

On the 16th of May MEP attended the KWS elephant and buffalo aerial census launch in Narok. We are eager to see the results.

Lemek Conservancy management plan workshop in the town of Bomet.

Fundraising:

Grants and Donations

In the last two months we have received donations (of over $1,000) from:

- Alice Yu ($15,000) toward an elephant collar in the Loita area
- Benevity Community Impact Fund ($1,000)
- Sherry Phelan ($1,000)
- Rita Cabases ($2,442) toward helicopter flying hours

We have also been awarded the following grants, which are due to be released:

- WWF Kenya ($30,000) toward collaring, helicopter flying time and ranger patrols
- For Rangers ($15,000) toward ranger welfare and salaries
- J E Fehsenfeld Family Foundation ($10,000) toward the helicopter
- J E Fehsenfeld Family Foundation ($10,000) though Tusk Trust for the helicopter

The following proposals and concept notes have been submitted:

- Robert Parker - toward the purchase of land critical to conservation
- The Paradise Fund - general operating costs and to establish a program in Loita
- Reverse The Decline (funded by Disney Conservation Fund and led by the Wildlife Conservation Society) - toward establishing a program in Loita

We have also reported on the following grants:

- Iris O'Brien Foundation grant supporting organizational development
- Lewa Safaricom Marathon on the Tusk Trust 2016 grant toward the re-collaring of elephant Ivy

Fundraising Materials

We have developed and printed fundraising materials including MEP's first leaflet to promote MEP's work to a new audience, including event attendees and tourists staying at lodges in the Mara. The leaflet informs people about MEP's work and appeals for donations, and negotiations are underway to have the leaflet placed in all the tourist lodges in the Mara.

Events

MEP held its first supporter engagement event in Nairobi on April 27, 2017 inviting key stakeholders including business leaders, international NGOs, bi-lateral funders and foreign dignitaries. Attendees included The British High Commissioner, representatives from the Belgian and US Embassies, Narok County Government, USAID, The Nature Conservancy, Aga Khan Foundation and The Serena Hotel Group. Follow-up meetings with those who attended the event will continue over the coming weeks.

On the 1st of May we hosted Davina Dobie and Andrea Frey from the Minara Foundation at MEP HQ. We also discussed accessing funding from the Oak Foundation and the SEGRE Fund who Andrea knows well.

To celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd, MEP planted 100 seedlings with pupils from Ngoswani School to begin planting a sustainable community woodlot at the school. We also hosted children from The MAA Trust for a conservation education day on the 24th of April.

MEP launch event at the Tribe Hotel in Nairobi on the 27th of April.

Fundraising Marketing

We sent out our second quarter online newsletter to our growing list of supporters and donors. We are also seeing an increase in traffic to the MEP website and Facebook page, which are proving to be useful in increasing awareness of the work of MEP and a growing source of funding from individual

supporters. We have also just been awarded an in-kind grant from Google worth $369 per day to help boost MEP's website on an ongoing basis.

Security:
After pulling out our team in Loita all was quiet for over a month. In April we received a report from Rob Omera of gunfire, plus suspected poaching and logging activities going on. This spurred a meeting on the 4th of April in Magadi with the KWS Assistant Director for Kajiado and the KWS Assistant Director from Nakuru. At the meeting we agreed to pool our resources to have a dedicated Rapid Response Team in Loita Hills. We reported that we will be receiving a new vehicle for HEC mitigation and we could put a vehicle, and three rangers, in Loita for 50% of the time the team is in the forest.

Incidents SitReps

2 Dead elephants on: 9/4/17	Two dead elephants were found in the same waterhole in the Shomople area in Magadi. It is suspected that they consumed very green grass with high levels of cyanide and when they drank water they died. The results have not been confirmed. MEP responded with the KWS vet to do the autopsy. Mike 8 and 9/17
Dead elephant on: 8/05/17	A dead elephant was found in Makucha village in Tanzania by MEP aerial patrol team. Mara Conservancy rangers report HEC incident to MEP team. MEP responds quickly but found one elephant already killed by the local community. The cause of death considered as human-elephant conflict. Tusk were retrieved and handed over to TANAPA rangers. MIKE file number: 10/17
Bush meat recovered and arrest 9/5/17	2 suspects arrested in Olkinyei Conservancy with 60 kgs. zebra meat. Suspect taken to Narok police station and booked with court location Narok.

Rangers meet with farms and build a chili fence together.

HEC
We responded to 43 HEC incidents in the last two months. This is an increase from nine in the last reporting period.

On the 6th of May we received a second-hand Land Rover pickup donated to MEP from the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust to react to conflict in the Mara. The vehicle was stationed in the Munyas area and furnished the chili fence building team during the time the fence was erected. The vehicle has been responding to conflict on a near daily basis since then and will be moved to the Transmara in June.

From the 8th of May to the 15th of May we erected seven kilometers of chili fences in the Munyas area and trained 160 community members to erect the fences. This area has experience some of the worst conflict in our areas of operation. Large herds of elephants have been staging in the Enongishu Conservancy during the day and moving onto farms at night.

In the Transmara we have re-deployed the team from Kawai to the Olosukut Forest near Kirindon. Again elephants have been using this forest during the day to stage their nightly raids into farms. Four of our collared elephants have been crop raiding in this area in the last two months: Fred, Hugo, Ivy and Lucy.

HEC SITREP

Number	DATES	GPS LOCATION		ACTION/OPERATION DETAILS	MEANS
1	01/04/2017	1° 14.220'S	34° 56.383'E	move elephants out of maize farm	by use of car
2	01/04/2017	1° 13.130'S	34° 57.151'E	move elephants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
3	3/4/20117	1° 7.064'S	35° 3.659'E	chase elephants out of farms at night	by use of car
4	03/04/2017	1° 7.064'S	35° 3.659'E	Move elephants out of farms at night	by use of car& firecrackers
5	05/04/2017	1° 6.594'S	35° 4.202'E	chase elephants out of farms at night	by use of car& firecrackers
6	05/04/2017	1° 43.534'S	34° 45.143'E	push elephants out of electric fence to oldoinyio erinka hills	by use of car& firecrackers
7	07/04/2017	1° 6.681'S	35° 3.835'E	Chase elephants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
8	08/04/2017	1° 16.280'S	35° 29.564'E	Move elephants out of Settlements to Olkinyei conservancy	by use of helicopter& firecrackers
9	10/04/2017	1° 2.537'S	35° 16.895'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
10	10/04/2017	1° 21.869'S	35° 28.254'E	Move elephants out of Settlements to Olkinyei conservancy	by use of car& firecrackers
11	13/04/2017	1° 6.441'S	35° 9.882'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
12	14/04/2017	1° 6.681'S	35° 3.835'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
13	15/04/2017	1° 2.537'S	35° 16.895'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
14	15/04/2017	1° 7.120'S	35° 3.850'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of helicopter& firecrackers
15	16/04/2017	1° 2.537'S	35° 16.895'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
16	16/04/2017	1° 24.469'S	35° 29.250'E	Move elephants out of settlements to control conflict	by use of helicopter& firecrackers
17	18/04/2017	1° 21.869'S	35° 28.254'E	Move elephants out of Settlements to Olkinyei conservancy	by use of car& firecrackers
18	19/04/2017	1° 6.683'S	35° 3.232'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of firecrackers
19	22/04/2017	1° 2.537'S	35° 16.895'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of firecrackers
20	23/04/2017	1° 6.683'S	35° 3.232'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
21	26/04/2017	1° 7.120'S	35° 3.850'E	Moving elephants to assess injuries in Transmara	by use of car& firecrackers
22	28/04/2017	1° 13.130'S	34° 57.151'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
23	29/04/2017	1° 16.409'S	35° 19.848'E	Move elphants out of electric fence	by use of car& firecrackers
24	01/05/2017	1° 2.064'S	35° 16.895'E	Move elphants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
25	05/05/2017	1° 2.064'S	35° 16.895'E	move elephants out of farms	by use of firecrackers
26	05/05/2017	1° 6.683'S	35° 3.232'E	move elephants out of maize farm	by use of car& firecrackers
27	07/05/2017	1° 12.328'S	35° 3.174'E	Move elephants out of electric fence	by use of car& firecrackers
28	08/05/2017	1° 2.537'S	35° 16.895'E	Push elephants from Munyas to Olchoro	by use of helicopter& firecrackers
29	08/05/2017	1° 2.064'S	35° 16.895'E	move elephants out of maize farm	by use of car& firecrackers
30	10/05/2017	1° 6.683'S	35° 3.232'E	move elephants out of maize farm	by use of firecrackers
31	11/05/2017	1° 7.086'S	35° 11.236'E	Search for injured elephant in lemek conservancy	by use of helicopter
32	13/05/2017	1° 6.441'S	35° 9.882'E	move elephants out of maize farm	by use of firecrackers
33	14/05/2017	1° 6.683'S	35° 3.232'E	move elephants out of maize farm	by use of firecrackers
34	16/05/2017	1° 2.537'S	35° 16.895'E	Push elephants from munyas to Olchoro	by use of helicopter& firecrackers
35	18/05/2017	1° 54.244'S	35° 43.878'E	HEC in Loita on the TZ border	by use of helicopter& firecrackers
36	19/05/2017	1° 2.064'S	35° 16.895'E	Search for injured elephant in migor and HEC in munyas	by use of helicopter& firecrackers
37	19/05/2017	1° 2.537'S	35° 16.895'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
38	22/05/2017	1° 7.064'S	35° 3.659'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
39	24/05/2017	1° 12.328'S	35° 3.174'E	Move elephants out of electric fence	by use of car& firecrackers
40	28/05/2017	1° 6.683'S	35° 3.232'E	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
41	29/05/2017	1° 2.075'S	35° 16.738'E	Move elephants out of farms and settlement	by use of helicopter& firecrackers

42	29/05/2017	1° 2.075'S	35° 16.738'E	Move elephants out of farms and settlement	by use of firecrackers
43	30/5/2017	1° 43.534'S	34° 45.143'E	Move elephants out of maize farm	by use of car& firecrackers

The crowd gathers around the helicopter while it's being refueled during an operation to move a stranded bull from community areas on the 29th of May.

Helicopter Update:
The helicopter continues to play a vital role in responding to HEC, monitoring elephants and assisting with security operations. In June the helicopter will be sent to KWS Airwing for the 500 hour check. We desperately need to raise additional funding for the helicopter to keep flying at the current level.

The helicopter has also been vital in finding injured wildlife and deploying the KWS vet. During this period we have responded to two injured baby elephant and one giraffe as well as sick giraffes in Ruma National Park.

Elephant Tracking:
On the 25th of May we teamed up with TANAPA, Narok Country Government, and KWS to re-collar Mytene. The operation went smoothly and he was in a large herd of females which we believe was for mating purposes.

All our elephants are tracked remotely five times per day, on the ground with the rangers, and once per month by air. We will not be including the chart of each elephants movements in the narrative of these reports and instead we will use the SARF outputs to report on movement.

On the 23rd of May Shorty's collar stopped reporting. We were able to immidiatly go there and noticed that the collar had slipped to one side.

This is from the re-collaring of Mytene.

Staff:
We held our first staff meeting of 2017 on the 11th of May at the MEP HQ. Ibrahim Funan was voted Ranger of the Quarter, John LeShan was put in charge of the chili fence team, Dickson Njapit was promoted from corporal to sargent and David Tobiko was promoted from private to corporal.

Wilson Sairowua took his annual leave during the month of April.

The CEO plans to take annual leave from the 19th of June to the 4th of July.

Winnie Mutahi who works for Seiya has been attached for 100% of her time to do accounts in Nairobi for MEP.

Ibrahim receiving the Ranger of the Quarter Award.

Focus for April and May
Complete annual report: Done

Register for NTSA: Done
Receive DSWT Vehicle: Done
Sign WWF contract: Not Done

Focus for June and July
Receive feedback from Paradise Fund and meet their leadership on 23rd July
Sign WWF contract
Receive feedback from TAWIRI on collaring
Lobby for drone usage and training
Complete and submit funding applications
Deploy team to Loita hills
Buy 2000 firecrackers
Attend board meeting