Protect, Conserve, Inspire

REPORT
August September 2016

Dr Limo removing an arrowhead from a large bull elephant in Musiara Swamp

We have experienced heavy thunder storms 2 or 3 times a week starting in September over the entire ecosystem. The area is looking green and regenerating quickly after the last dry period.

General
This reporting period we have recorded 3 elephant deaths, which is a decrease from 5 last period. The causes of death are conflict, natural and unknown. MEP, KWS, and partners harmonized elephant mortality records on the 11th and 12th of September. The total at the time was 31 elephant carcasses.

We are experiencing increased conflict outside the conservancies and several of our collared elephants moved into conflict areas during this period. We hope the recent rains will draw elephants back into the conservancies and national park. The slowing of the migration northward may also have positive effect in the same regard.

MEP and KWS have formed a new mobile HEC team based in Olosukut Conservancy opposite the MNC Airstrip. This team covers the river border to the Kaboson community center. Now that both land cruisers are based in field stations the HQ RRT is deployed using the Suzuki and helicopter.

MEP Trust board met on the 2nd of September and conducted the first part of the good governance review the organization is undergoing. Kelly Bottone was very informative and we hope to complete the exercise at the next board meeting.

MEP's founder and family visited us in August.

MEP hosted the PREPARED/USAID land of application WILD at the MEP HQ on the 16th of September.

The scientific committee met virtually on the 20th of September.

The dead elephant found in the Mara River beside Mara North Conservancy on the 5th of September.

Partnership Development
WWF have asked us to meet to finalize the post-monitoring contract in October.

We plan to deploy 12 Narok County Government rangers in October.

We have been developing a relationship with the Ngoswai Primary School to support a fencing project, tree planting project, and toilet facility. We also plan to develop a partnership with the Maa Trust in regard to education development projects.

We sent a mobile recce team to Loita and patrolled for 2 days in August with the rangers from Mara Loita Community Rangers. The team did not find any carcasses and were able to track a herd of around 20 elephants. We plan to develop our partnership, and deploy together, in this area. The rangers also need training, formalized employment, and uniforms.

Fundraising:

Victoria Fanthorpe joins MEP on the 1st of October in the position of Development Director at MEP. Victoria will be working to increase funding for the organization though implementing the fundraising strategy.

The online helicopter fundraising has continued to slow down with no new donations in August or September. On the 11th of August the CEO met with Sue Rodgers who might be interesting in funding the helicopter.

We have submitted a proposal to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust for a new vehicle for HEC and rapid response.

This tourism season we have met with several groups from Richard's Camp who have donated 100USD per guest.

MEP received a box of equipment, which included 4 pairs of socks each for all MEP rangers, medical kits, camel backs and cold weather gear from partner Running For Rangers in August.

Security:
In this period we arrested 2 members of an ivory poaching gang who we have been following for some time. They killed an elephant in Ngoswani area on the 4th of March and we also suspect that they killed the 4 elephants in Siana in January 2016. After the first arrest on the 17th we gathered enough information from the suspect to find another of his gang in Loita with 10kgs of bushmeat.

The firearm recovery and arrest of 2 suspects on the 27th of September is the second armed gang we have stopped this year.

Gang members arrested with an illegal machine gun and 2 rounds of ammunition.

Incidents sitrep

Bush meat recovered and arrest 18/8/16	1 suspect arrested in Transmara Kawai center with 12 kgs wildebeest meat. Suspect taken to Lolgorian police station and booked. Court location Kilgoris.
Dead elephant on: 20/8/16	A dead elephant was found in Olare-Emotorogi Conservancy on the northern side of Mara Plains Camp. The cause of death was unknown as there was no wound on the carcass. Tusks were recovered and handed over to the KWS Wuaso Ngiro station. Mike file number: 19/16
Dead elephant on: 5/9/16	A dead elephant was found at Mara north Conservancy next to Serian camp. The cause of death consider as natural. The tusks were recovered and taken to Mara north conservancy HQ to be collected by KWS. Mike file number: 20/16
Dead elephant on: 9/9/16	A dead elephant was reported by local community in Oloonkoliin area, this comes after a herd of six elephants crop raid at night, MEP and KWS respond quickly on the ground, but they were still unable to stop community from shooting arrows and throwing spears at the baby elephant. Cause of dead consider as Human elephant conflict. Both tusks were removed and taken to KWS Narok HQ. Mike file number 21/16.
Bush meat recovered and arrest: 11/9/16	1 suspect arrested in Transmara Saparingo area with 6 kgs wildebeest meat. Suspect taken to Lolgorian police station and booked. Court location Kilgoris
Ivory recovered and arrest: 15/9/16	1 suspect arrested in Migori area with 1.5kgs ivory. Suspect taken to Migori police station and booked. Court location Migori
Ivory recovered and arrest: 17/9/16	1 suspect arrested in Laila area with 4.5kgs ivory. MEP team has monitored the Suspect since 2015 when his friend was arrested with 4kgs ivory in the same area. Suspect taken to Narok police station and booked. Court location Narok
Bush meat recovered and arrest: 21/9/16	1 suspect arrested in Oloolaimutia area with 10 kgs wildebeest meat. Suspect taken to Narok police station and booked. Court location Narok
Fire arm recovered and arrest: 27/9/16	2 suspects arrested in Munyas village Narok west constituency. Arrested with 1 AK47 Riffles and 2 rounds. The two suspect were taken to Narok police station and booked with OB number: 24/28/9/16.Court location Narok

HEC

Conflict is still on the rise. HEC incidents caused 1 elephant death and possibly the other unknown death. We have responded to more injured elephants in this reporting period. A large herd of 60 elephants have been staging opposite the Mara north airstrip in the northern part of Olosukut Conservancy then entering homesteads nightly.

The young elephant killed in an HEC incident on the 9th of September.

Farmers chasing the elephant which they killed: previous photo.

DATES	SECTOR NAME	GPS LOCATIC	CROPS	ACTION	MEANS
2/8/16	Munyas	01°0.766'' 35°16.929''	maize	Chase elephants out of Munyas	Helicopter
7/8/16	Mararianda	01°12.418'' 35°03.204''	settlement	Chase elephants out of Mararianda	Helicopter
11/8/16	Olkinyei	01°18.777'' 35°23.603''	settlement	chase elephants out of olkinyei and pushing to conservancy	Car and Firecrackers
14/8/2016	Endoinyio Erinka	01°15.933'' 35°19.803''	settlement	Chase elephnats out of electric fence to the hills	Helicopter
19/8/2016	Olkinyei	01°01.612'' 35°16.618''	maize	Chase elephants out of olkinyei and look for snared lion	Helicopter and firecrackers
22/8/2016	Endoinyio Erinka	01°02.144'' 35°16.895''	settlement	Chase elephants out of electric fence to the hills	Car and Firecrackers
26/8/2016	Kirindon	01°07.441'' 35°06.951''	Maize	Kirindon	Helicopter and firecrackers
27/8/2016	Mararianda	01°12.418'' 35°03.204''	Maize	Chase elephants out of Mararianda	Helicopter
3/9/16	Endoinyio Erinka	01°08.197'' 35°14.528''	settlement	Chase elephants out of electric fence	Car and Firecrackers
9/9/16	Oloonkoliin	01°00.799'' 35°31.156''	maize	chase elephants out of oloonkoliin farms (baby elephant killed by local community)	Car and Firecrackers
13/9/2016	Kawai	01°15.101'' 34°56.969''	Maize	chase elephants out of Kawai farms	Car and Firecrackers
22/9/2016	Talek	01°26.454'' 35°12.491''	settlement	Chase elephants out of Fig Tree Camp	Helicopter and firecrackers
23/9/2016	Munyas	01°0.766'' 35°16.929''	settlement	Chase elephants out of Munyas, collect vet, search for elephants	Helicopter

Helicopter Update:
We have responded to 50% of conflict cases in this reporting period with the helicopter. It remains the single most effective tool to move elephants out of dangerous areas. We have also been using firecrackers from the helicopter adding to the effectiveness with stubborn elephants. The helicopter has also been vital in mobilizing the KWS and DSWT vet team to treat wounded elephants and other wildlife. On the 28th of August we mobilized the helicopter so the KWS DSWT vet team could dart and treat an elephant wounded by arrows. On the 16th of September we were able to mobilize the vet team to treat an elephant wounded by a spear and a giraffe wounded by a snare in the Olosukut Conservancy.

Staff:
Wilson Sairoua will be on Paternity Leave in October who is now the proud father of Sandra Sanaiyan Sairoua, born on the 28th of September.

On behalf of all the MEP staff we welcome Victoria to the team.

Ranger Sammy Karia was dismissed after being issued with 3 warning letters including, being drunk on duty, continued lack of motivation to work, and being Absent Without Leave on numerous occasions.

Elephant Tracking:
This is the first month MEP includes the additional 8 collared elephants in the Mara Ecosystem to make a total of 19 elephants currently being tracked on a daily basis. In this reporting period we have not been able to visit all the collared elephants. We hope to develop this aspect with funding from WWF.

Hugo	Hugo spent the duration of the reporting period inside the MNC and Oloisukut conservancy. Hugo broke the Kirindon geofence on 6th of September and has been moving together with Fred.

Fred	Fred spent the duration of the reporting period inside the MNC and Oloisukut conservancy. Fred has been moving together with Hugo inside Oloisukut conservancy and MNC. Fred has been breaking the Kirindon and Mararienta geofence. Fred has been pushed out of Mararienta on the 27th of August and Olosukut near Olekoti boma on the 25th of September.
Mytene	Mytene spent the duration of the reporting period in the Serengeti national park. He crossed to Kenya border on 5th of August and went back to Serengeti on 8th of the same month. He is currently in Serengeti.
Ivy	Ivy has spent the last two months between MNC, Lemek and Ol Choro conservancy. Ivy has been crossing river Mara breaking kirindon geofence and has been visited by MEP team and was last seen with a herd of 30-40 when she was pushed out of Oloonkoliin area on 14 of September.
Caroline	Caroline has spent the last two months between Pardamat and Olare-Emotorogi conservancy. She has been breaking oldoinyio Erinka geofence several times and has been visited by Oldoinyio Erinka team.
Kegol	Kegol has been a resident of MNC and Oloisukut conservancy for the last two months and occasionally breaks into the geofence around Mararienta.
Lucy	Lucy has spent the last two months around Nyekweri and Oloisukut conservancy. Lucy has been visited by MEP Transmara team in Oloisukut conservancy and has been breaking Transmara southern geofence.
Naibosho	Naibosho has spent the last two months between MMNR, Siana and Naibosho conservancy. Currently she is in Naibosho.
Chelsea	Chelsea continues to stick to watercourses in the Olkinyei and Naibosho conservancy. Chelsea is seen moving together with Limo in Olkinyei conservancy. They are part of a large herd in this area.
Limo	Limo has also spent the reporting period in the Olkinyei and Siana area. Limo has been moving together with Chelsea following watercourses in Olkinyei conservancy.
Shorty	Shorty is still in the Mugumo area of the Serengeti Tanzania and breaks into farms outside the Serengeti National Park.
Kenyorra	Kenyorra spent the reporting period in the Siana Area and Naikara area. Kenyorra has been moving together with Nkoidila in the Naikara hills.
Nkoidila	Nkoidila has spent the last two months of the reporting period in Siana and Naikara hills. Nkoidila is seen streaking to Oloolaimutia center crossing to Siana hills, He is also moving together with Kenyorra bordering Naikara and Narosura.
Tressa	Tressa has spent the last two months around Keekorok lodge Inside the Maasai Mara game reserve.
Namunyak	Namunyak has also spent the month of August in Maji Moto before moving to Siana on 10th of September. She is currently in Siana conservancy.
Santiyan	Santiyan has been a resident of Mosiro and Suswa conservancy. Santiyan is crossing two counties; Narok and Kajiado County. Santiyan and her herd of 40 were spotted in the Mosiro area on the 25th of August. She has been moving east closer Suswa mountain since then. Her collar has reports are interrupted by poor signal but more recently we have been getting better collar updates.
Chiri	Chiri has been a resident of the Siana Conservancy, Olderikesi and Maasai Mara game reserve. She has been around Cottars lodge on the beginning of September before crossing the Kenya border to Serengeti national park in Tanzania.
Alina	Alina has spent the reporting period in Naibosho and Siana conservancy, She is currently in Naibosho conservancy
Kiambi	Kiambi signal lost hence no tracking data.

Focus for August and September
Host Drone Demo: Not Done
Harmonize MIKE data: Done
Write final report for USAID: Done
Attend Indianapolis Prize in Indianapolis USA and fundraise for MEP: October
Write Iris O'Brien Progress Report: Done
Attend Board meeting on 1st September: Done

Focus for October and November
Host Drone Demo:
Attend Indianapolis Prize in Indianapolis USA and fundraise for MEP:
Complete MNC inception report and Milestones for MEP grant:
Complete foundation for hanger:
Follow up on grant applications to WWF and DSWT: