Protect, Conserve, Inspire

REPORT
June July 2016

Bobo in the Oliopa forest area on the 2nd of June. Photo Credit Courtney Fehsenfeld.

There has been very little rain to speak of during this period and the area is drying up fast.

General

During this period we report an increase in elephant mortalities. 5 elephants were killed during the last two months in the Mara. The cause of death for 3 of these elephants is unknown due to heavy scavenging. 2 mortalities were definitely as a result of poaching and/or conflict.

Elephant Bobo was killed on the 21st. of June on the Ol Choro Conservancy. The collar data shows that he was in the Munyas Settlement area 2 days before his death. He then came to the Ol Choro Conservancy where he died of a spear wound. It is not clear if he was speared in the farms or where he died. After his collar reported 2 immobility alarms we were able to ferry 6 MEP and KWS rangers to look for Bobo. The ground team found him after 30min of patrolling in the thick Euclea forest at 6:30am on the 22nd of June.

MEP's main supporter the ESCAPE Foundation visited MEP at the end of June for 5 days in two trips. It was a good chance to do some work together.

The wildebeest migration is in full swing and it is always impressive to witness.

Partnership Development
Dr. Jake Wall from Save the Elephants spent 5 days with MEP in the Mara and it was a good chance to discuss the direction of the Scientific Committee, plan next steps, and conduct a training for aerial tracking using a new form STE has developed. We were also able to discuss some of the key datasets MEP collects and how we will continue to collect and store data.

WWF and MEP have developed a proposal for the monitoring of the WWF collared elephants. We plan for this project to start in August.

MEP attended the Narok County Government and WWF spatial planning meeting in Narok on the 27th of July.

MEP hosted a group of elders and officials from the Mosiro area at the MEP HQ on the 20th of July to discuss a partnership in that area to protect elephants. This large and wild area is on the boarder between Narok and Kajiado counties.

MEP hosted the wildlife club from Rekero Primary School at the MEP HQ on the 21st of June for an art day and then they went for a game drive in Mara North Conservancy.

Fundraising:
We have raised 13,000USD for our helicopter operations online and though direct donations to ESCAPE foundation. Ms Rita Casabases donated 5,500USD, which was the largest donation for operations. Mrs Margret McComick and Mrs Claire Bolles donated 15,000USD for the hanger. The crowd raising website Generosity.com has definitely been working. Specifically for small donations from a large number of supporters though sharing the cause on social media. In 1 month we have raised 27,000 USD of the 70,000 USD goal. MEP thanks the supporters of this cause very much and if this trend continues over the next 3 months we will have enough operating time for 1 year, which translates to approximately 200hrs flying time.

Security:
The two spearing incidents on Ol Choro conservancy raised an alarm in MEP. KWS arrested 1 person who was responsible for spearing the elephant that died on the 16th of July. The suspect arrested was a herder on Ol Choro Conservancy. The suspect had speared the elephant on the 9th of June and we were able to treat and collar him the next day. Then Bobo was killed by means of a spear on Ol Choro Conservancy on the 22nd of June. These incidents clearly point to a poaching ring operating in this area and not simply conflict as was previously recorded on the MIKE reports. We have started some intel work in this area. We will also put pressure on the Ol Choro landowners and management to restrict and vet herders coming onto the conservancy.

The gang members we arrested in January have been causing some unrest in their home areas and flouting that they are looking for the arresting officers. Who they incidentally see regularly during the court proceedings

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Incidents sitrep

Ivory recovered and arrest 11/6/16	2 suspects arrested in Keroka Kisii town with 6.5 kgs ivory. The two suspects were taken to Kisii police station and booked. Court location Kisii.
Dead elephant on: 13/6/16	A dead elephant was found in Naibosho Conservancy next to Olseki camp by Naibosho conservancy rangers. The cause of death was unknown due to the degree of scavenging. The tusks were recovered and handed over to the KWS Siana station. Mike file number: 15/16
Ivory recovered and arrest: 13/6/16	1 suspect arrested in Transmara Ogueti village with 3kgs ivory, suspect taken to Lolgorian police station and booked. Court location: Kilgoris
Dead elephant on: 22/6/16	Collared elephant Bobo was attacked during the night of the 21st and died on the morning of the 22nd. The collar immobility alert alerted the MEP team to react. He was killed by spear from above into his stomach and kidney. The tusks were recovered and handed over to KWS Wuaso Ngiro Station. The tusks weighed 66 and 74 pounds. He was an iconic bull elephant and lived on the fringe of the ecosystem. Mike file number: 16/16.
Dead elephant: 16/7/16	A dead elephant was found by routine ground patrols in the Mara north conservancy area of Rekero camp, the Elephant was found on 10th June being speared on the left leg side on Ochoro Conservancy, The elephant was treated and collard for easy monitoring, MEP and KWS have been monitoring until when he was found dead on the southern side of Oliopa village in a thick croton bush. He died from a spear wound. Both tusks were removed and taken to KWS Narok HQ by MEP team. Mike file number 17/16.
Dead Elephant: 20/7/16	A dead elephant was found at Mara north Conservancy next to the Leopard Gorge by MNC rangers. The cause of death was unknown due to the degree of scavenging. The tusks were recovered and taken to Mara north conservancy HQ to be collected by KWS. Mike file number: 18/16
Dead elephant on: 29/7/16	A dead elephant was found in Naibosho Conservancy by Naibosho conservancy rangers. The cause of death was unknown due to the degree of scavenging. The tusks were recovered and handed over to the KWS Siana station. Mike file number: 19/16

HEC

HEC incidents are continuing to increase in our areas of operation. On the 27th of June 1 person was killed on a farm above the Oloolollo Escarpment. During April and May we responded to 11 HEC incidents and in the last reporting period 15 incidents. Interestingly opposite the Ol Choro conservancy farmers have harvested their maize crops but elephants continue to go into this area and feed on sugarcane, bananas, and other homestead crops.

DATES	SECTOR NAME	GPS LOCATION	CROPS	ACTION
3/6/16	Mararianda	01°12.504'' 35°03.234''	Settlement	**Chasing elephants and lions out of mararrienda with the helicopter**
5/6/16	Olkinyei	01°18.504'' 35°25.338''	Settlement	**Stock theft and chase elephants out of olkinyei with the helicopter**
6/6/16	Olkinyei	01°18.777'' 35°23.603''	Settlement	**Push elephants into olkinyei conservancy with the helicopter**
7/6/16	Munyas	01°08.761'' 35°17.159''	Maize	**looking for bobo after visiting farms in Munyas**
10/6/16	Munyas	01°01.612'' 35°16.618''	Maize	**Push elephants out of farms and then search for wounded elephant with helicotper.**
10/6/15	Munyas	01°02.144'' 35°16.895''	Maize	**Push the elephant out of Munyas and airlifting vet to treat wounded elephants**
26/6/2016	Isokon	01°19.934'' 34°54.170''	Maize	**Push elephants out of farms with the helicopter**
27/6/2016	Transmara	01°19.934'' 34°54.170''	Maize	**Pushing elephants out of farms near Ol korok Transmara with the helicopter (one person killed)**
1/7/16	Nkorigori	01°00.799'' 35°31.156''	Maize	**Pushing elephants out of farms with the helicopter**
10/7/16	Olesere	01°21.488'' 34°19.6143''	Settlement	**Pushing elephants out of electric fence with the car and firecrackers**
18/7/2016	Olkinyei	01°20.953'' 35°25.705''	Settlement	**Push Elephants out of electric fence to Olkinyei with the helicopter**
20/7/2016	Talek	01°25.923'' 35°13.342''	Settlements	**Pushing elephants out of electric fence with the helicopter**
25/7/2016	Isokon transmara	01°17.1910'' 34°56.557''	Maize	**Push elephants out of electric fence by Vehicle and firecrackers**
26/7/2016	isokon transmara	01°18.615'' 34°55.896''	Maize	**Push elephants out of maize farms by use of vehicle and firecrackers**
26/7/2016	Lemek	01°05.786'' 35°24.378''	Settlement	**Push elephants out of electric fence with helicopter**

Screenshot of one of the elephants responsible for the 27th June Incident

Helicopter Update:
During this period we have been requested to fly Elephant, Rhino and Giraffe Wildlife Emergency Medical Support (WEMS) missions by the KWS and Narok County Government. Being able to get the KWS vet into the allowed us to treat injured wildlife across the Mara ecosystem. KWS Veterinarian Dr. Limo has done some amazing work from the helicopter. The KWS/DSWT mobile vet unit will now be able to respond to injured wildlife over a greater area and more effectively. We plan to develop the relationship between DSWT and MEP.

We plan to work more closely with conservancies on the response and precautions to take against HEC. More specifically flash bangs, chili fences, night O.P.'s and noise-makers. Then if all else fails the helicopter is called in as a last resort to move elephants out of the unsafe areas.

Staff:
The MEP marathon team completed the 2016 Lewa Marathon in 8th place overall. Our fastest runner Joshua Karia finished in 50th place out of 1,256 runners. As a reward for placing first place in the MEP team Joshua requested to learn how to drive. MEP agreed to pay the costs of his driving license and accommodation in Narok. He will attend this course in August while on his annual leave.

Fundraising Specialist Victoria Fanthorpe will start working with us full time from the middle of September.

Deputy Warden Emmanuel Lokoro was dismissed for continuing to misuse MEP vehicles and not reporting breakages. A junior officer will be promoted to fill his position.

MEP plans to support a tactical refresher for our rangers before the end of the year with company 51 Degrees limited.

Jackson Koonyi was awarded the Ranger of the Quarter for exceptional community work.

Elephant Tracking:

Recollaring Bobo

Bobo's collar was replaced on the 8th of June.

We collared a male elephant on Ol Choro Conservancy on the 10th of June who was badly wounded by a spear.

In the next reporting period we hope to include the 8 WWF collared elephants.

Hugo	Hugo spent the duration of the reporting period inside the MNC and Oloisukut conservancy. Hugo broke the Mararienta geofence on 24th July.
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. Fred broke the Kirindon geofence on 12 of July
Mytene	Mytene spent the duration of the reporting period in the Serengeti National Park, He cross to Kenya on the 6th of July and then went back to Serengeti on 10th of July. Mytene continues to live on the Kenya/Tanzania near Cottars Camp and the Oloolaimutia village. He is currently in Serengeti.
Bobo	Bobo was found dead on the 22nd of June. He had been crop raiding but we do not rule out poaching. See mike 16/16.
Ivy	Ivy has spent the last two months between MNC, Lemek and Ol Choro conservancy. She has visited the MEP property several times. Ivy has been crossing river Mara breaking Kirindon Geofence going into farms with her herd and has been visited by MEP RRT from the HQ team several times. Ivy's collar was replaced on the 22nd of June.
Caroline	Caroline has spent the last two months between Pardamat and Naibosho conservancy. She has been breaking the Oldoinyio Erinka Geofence several times. Caroline has been visited by Oldoinyio Erinka patrol team several times
Kegol	Kegol has been a resident of MNC and Mara conservancy for the last two months and occasionally broke into the geofence around Mararienta, Kegol crossed Kenya border on 6th of July and spent three hours in Serengeti national park before coming back into the Mara conservancy.
Lucy	Lucy has spent the last two months in Nyekweri Forest and Oloisukut Conservancy. MEP Transmara team in Oloisukut conservancy has visited Lucy. Lucy has been breaking Transmara geofence then came right to the Mara River near the Royal Mara Lodge in Mara North Conservancy and moved back to Oloisukut Conservancy.
Naibosho	Naibosho has spent the last two months between MMNR, and Naibosho conservancy. Currently she is in MMNR
Chelsea	Chelsea continues to stick to watercourses in the Olkinyei and Naibosho conservancy. Chelsea is seen moving together with Limo severally in Olkinyei conservancy.
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.

Focus for June and July

Develop relationship with the Fundraising Specialist and write letter of offer: Done
Re Collar Ivy and Bobo: Done
Host Drone Demo: Not Done
Circulate Annual Report: Done
Harmonize MIKE data: Not Done
Write final report for USAID: Not Done

Focus for August and September

Host Drone Demo
Harmonize MIKE data
Write final report for USAID
Attend Indianapolis Prize in Indianapolis USA and fundraise for MEP
Write Iris O'Brien Progress Report
Attend Board meeting on 1st September

Recollaring Ivy on the 22nd of June.