Protect, Conserve, Inspire

REPORT
October November 2016

Elephants peacefully grazing on the MEP/Tracks Trust property in Lemek Conservancy

During this period we have had no rain to speak of.

General
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.

On the 10th to the 12th of October board member, Trey Fehsenfeld, and CEO, Marc Goss, visited Tim Solso in Montana to demonstrate the use of drones to his ranch manager. The demonstration was a success and Tim donated 5,000USD to MEP. Then on the 14th we attended the Indianapolis Prize and visited the Fehsenfeld family. The CEO then took 1 week off in Seattle.

MEP Trust board met on the 5th of November and conducted the 2nd of the good governance review the organization is undergoing. We would like to extend a thank you to the Iris O'Brien Foundation for supporting the review and Kelly Bottone from Frameworks of change for conducting an excellent review. MEP is in the process of adopting the board policies recommended by Kelly.

Partnership Development
WWF reports that their contract to monitor collared elephants will be ready to sign by the end 2016.

The NCG rangers and 1 warden have been attached to MEP. We had a delay in deploying them due to a shortage of tents but we borrowed 1 tent from MNC. 8 new tents will be ready for collection on the 5th of December. They are eagerly waiting to be issued with firearms from the County.

On the 30th of October MEP board member Trey Fehsenfeld, ESCAPE Foundation ED, Brian Kearney-Grieve and the MEP CEO went to visit Crystal Courtney, CEO of the Maa Trust. This meeting was

extremely informative and we were all very impressed with the work the Maa Trust does with conservation communications, women's groups, and community development. We all plan to further develop this partnership.

KWS Corporal Edward Ogutu drilling the county rangers attached to MEP. They are eager young cadets fresh out of KWS Manyani Law Enforcement Academy.

Fundraising:
Victoria has applied to WWF (7,500USD), Disney (25,000USD) and the European Outdoor Conservation Association (20,000 Euros).

Sue Anschutz-Rodgers donated 35,000USD for helicopter operations.

DSWT have approved our request for a vehicle. They will provide MEP with a 2nd hand land rover. This car will be dedicated to HEC response.

Security:
MEP transferred the Kileleoni team to Olosukut on the 1st of November, as there were no elephants in this area. Some days later gang activities started Oliopa area to Olonkeeri 13th of November. Whether this is a coincidence or not we managed to arrest the gang members on the 16th with the Olosukut team.

Suspect arrested on the 20th of October (pictured on the left).

Incidents SitReps

Bush meat recovered and arrest 3/10/16	1 suspect arrested in Olmorogi Transmara area with 10kgs wildebeest meat. Suspect taken to Lolgorian police station and booked.
Bush meat recovered and arrest: 5/10/16	1 suspect arrested in Endoinyio Erinka area with 25kgs bush meat. Suspect taken to Narok police station and booked.
Cheetah skin recovered and arrest: 14/10/16	3 suspects arrested in Oyani center Kisii area with 1 cheetah skin. Suspects taken to Kisii police station and booked.
Ivory recovered and arrest: 20/10/16	1 suspect arrested in Kisii area with 8.5kgs ivory. Suspect taken to Kisii police station and booked.
Leopard skin recovered and arrest: 20/10/16	1 suspect arrested in Nyangusu area with 1 leopard skin. Suspect taken to Lolgorian police station and booked.
Ivory recovered and arrest: 28/10/16	1 suspect arrested in Tanzania with 10.5kgs ivory. TANAPA rangers on MEP intel arrested the suspect; the suspect was taken to the nearby court waiting for hearing.
Suspect arrest on: 16/11/2016	2 suspects arrested in Laila by MEP team, the culprit have been robbing people in the area, the suspects were taken to Mulot police station and booked.
Bows and arrows recovered and arrest on 16/11/2016	2 suspects arrested at Oloisukut conservancy with bows and arrows inside the conservancy, they were suspected to be planning poaching in the conservancy. Suspects taken to Lolgorian police station and booked.
Bush meat recovered and arrest on 18/11/2016	3 suspects arrested in Transmara with 500 kg giraffe meat, suspects taken to Lolgorian police station and booked.

HEC

We assembled coalition team in the Olosukut Conservancy at the end of September. This team is a dedicated HEC team comprised of MNC rangers, MEP rangers, NCG rangers, KWS rangers, Olosukut rangers, and Lemek rangers. The team is mostly active at night to make sure elephants do not climb the escarpment and go into farms. They also monitor the river crossings and are responsible to respond to HEC from Mararienta to Emarti in the Transmara. We have installed 2 trail cameras at strategic river crossings and we will put 3 more up in December. MEP responded to 25 HEC incidents in the last two months this is an increase from the last reporting period of 14 incidents. Elephants continue to break electric fences in the Ol Donyo Erinka area and especially collared elephant Olchoda. Along the Mara River elephants continue to cross and go into farms opposite the Lemek Conservancy and Ol Choro Conservancy. They are using the conservancies as a staging area during the day and cross back and forth during the night.

Collaring and treating elephant Courtney. Right: arrows removed from her body.

Helicopter Update:
The single most exciting news about the helicopter is that Mrs. Sue Anschutz-Rodgers donated 35,000USD to the helicopter account for operations. We have also been furnishing once per month aerial tracking flights of all the collared elephants. We took the helicopter to Nairobi for KWS to conduct the 300hr service. We also did a track and balance of the blades and she is flying much more smoothly. The hanger building has started and we expect the foundation to be completed in December. The helicopter has transformed our ability to respond to HEC, and other emergencies, effectively over a very large area.

Elephant Santiyan and her herd during the first aerial monitoring flight.

Staff:
Warden James Ekiru went on lave in November. Warden Zakayo Naeku will go on leave in December.

Elephant Tracking:
This is the first period we have started the aerial patrols in earnest. Each month we will visit each of the 21 collared elephants, bar the ones in Tanzania- so 19 in total. During these flights we will be completing the STE Aerial Monitoring form and filling these in the MEP scientific Drop box folder. The tracking flights have been extremely helpful to also check the general conditions of the various herds. It has been interesting to also see the herd structure changes between each flight. On the 29th of October we collared elephant "Courtney" after she was wounded by 11 arrows in Ologolin. We also collared a HEC candidate in the Pardamat area who the community has been complaining about for some time; his name is Olchoda "The Disturber".

Collaring Elephant Olchoda

Mytene	Mytene's collar is working perfectly despite being 3 years old It was deployed on June 29th 2013 and we will need to replace it soon. Mytene

	spent the duration of the reporting period in the northeast portion of the Serengeti. When Mytene comes into Kenya we plan to recollar him.
Caroline	Caroline has been following the watercourses in Oldonyo Erinka at the beginning of October. She then moved into Naboisho conservancy and then Talek area. Currently she is back in Oldonyo Erinka.
Kegol	Started in Olosukut conservancy opposite Royal Mara and was crop raiding in the Kirindon area. He then came to MNC, Mararienta, and Olololo game ranch. He is currently in Mara north conservancy. The MEP Trustees visited Kegol on the 5th of November in Mara North.
Lucy	Lucy stated the reporting period in Nyekweri and then moved to carp areas in Kirindon using the Nkenyei forest as a staging area to enter farms at night. She then moved all the way to the Migor area, 27kms away, over a period of 2 days. She then did the same thing 1 week later. Currently she is in Nyekweri forest after being pushed out of the Nkenyei area by the rangers on the 27th November.
Naibosho	Naibosho has been north of the Talek settlement area on the boundary of Naibosho Conservancy. She then moved into the MMNR and back to Talek area again. She has been close to Talek on numerous occasions.
Chelsea	Chelsea has been spent the duration of the reporting period in Ol Kinyei Conservancy.
Limo	Started the month in Ol Kinyei Conservancy then moved in to the Maji Moto area breaking the Ol Kinyei/Narok Geofence on the 29th and 30th of October. At one point he was 9km from Ewaso Ngiro town before heading back toward Ol Kinyei. He then moved all the way southwest to Mbitin area in Ol Donyo Erinka where he met up with Kiambi.
Shorty	Shorty spent the duration of the reporting period in the northwest extent of the Serengeti. He left the park on a number of occasions into farmland in the Mugumo area.
Hugo	Hugo has spent the reporting period in MNC and Olosukut and moving together with Fred. He has been crop raiding from the 1st to the 4th of October in Olongolin area.
Fred	Fred has been in Oloolololo, MNC and Olosukut. He has not been crop raiding but has been in Mararienta center on the 14th of November. He is currently with Hugo.
Kenyorra	Kenyorra has been in the cedar forests near Naikara where a boy was killed by elephants in October. She then went to the Maji Moto area and then south to the Loita Plains and is currently in the Naikara area with Nkoidila.
Kiambi	Kiambi was found with Limo on the 24th of November in the Mbitin area. We then recollared him, as his collar never functioned, on the 26th of November.
Tressa	Tressa has been spent the period around the Keekorok Lodge in the MMNR. She went into the Serengeti on 3 occasions.
Nkoidila	Nkoidila's movements match those of Kenyorra.
Namunyak	Namunyak has spent the period in the Olaro Conservancy area, northern Siana and Naikara.
Santiyan	Santiyan started the reporting period on the southern slopes of Mt Suswa and then streaked 25km southwest in 18 hours into the Mosiro area (near the center). She continued south to the Ewaso Ngiro river and the surrounding area where she is now.
Chiri	Chiri has been resident in the Olderikesi area near the KE/TZ boarder near Cottars 1920's camp. She has also been into the southeastern portion of the MMNR.

Alina	Alina has started the period in the Naibosho Conservancy then moved to the MMNR and crossed into the Serengeti on the 18th November.
Ivy	Ivy started the reporting period in the Enongishu Conservancy. She then moved into the Kileleoni Hills on Olchoro conservancy. After that she started crop raiding again from 23rd of October opposite MNC and Lemek. Then she moved into Olosukut and is currently back on Ol Choro using the Ngerende hill as a staging area.
Courtney	Courtney was collared on the 29th of October after being in a harrowing attack by farmers in the Olongolin area in Transmara. When the KWS darted her we managed to pull out 11 arrows. She then streaked to the safety of the MMNR and Mara Triangle sticking to the riverine forests along the Mara River. She then came out into the open on the 20th of November where we were able to easily see her. One of her wounds is still quite swollen and has puss coming out.
Olchoda	Olchoda was collared on the 10th of November after being a renowned HEC candidate in the area. The community had named him "Olchoda" – "The Disturber" in Maa for this reason. He has been in the Oldonyo Erinka area and stick to the watercourses. And is often near settlements.

Focus for October and November
Host Drone Demo: Not done and postponed until someone can take this project on
Attend Indianapolis Prize in Indianapolis USA and fundraise for MEP: Done
Complete MNC inception report and Milestones for MEP grant: Done
Complete foundation for hanger: Not Done complete in December
Follow up on grant applications to WWF and DSWT: Done

Focus for December and January
Host Christmas party at MEP HQ for all rangers and attached rangers
Complete hanger foundation
Sign WWF contract
Receive DSWT Vehicle
Complete 2017 budget and Work Plan
Update 3-year strategy