mara
elephant project

Protect, Conserve, Inspire

REPORT
August and September 2017

Rangers viewing Courtney shortly after she was treated in the Musiara area.

We experienced a few showers in the last two months. This has kept the Loita migration in the northern portion of the ecosystem.

General

With all of the crops out of the fields we have experienced much less human-elephant conflict in the last two months. This gave us a chance to focus on other activities. We sent reconnaissance to both Loita and the Mau Forest, held two general staff meetings, re-trained the rangers on using the WILD app, held several officer meetings, re-shuffled all patrol teams, and started a new fence monitoring team. The fence monitoring team is made up of two rangers with a motorbike and a GPS. They are systematically moving from the most northern extent of the ecosystem east to map fences in the Olkinyei and Maji Moto areas. Once this area is covered we will move south to cover the Siana and Loita areas. This is an ambitious project but they have made good progress already.

Using the WILD app, we have been able to quantify ranger patrol distances and improve daily reporting of the ranger teams to HQ. Daily use of the smartphones and populating the WILD patrol reports was not happening, as we would have liked. During the staff meetings and refresher courses we reiterated the importance of data collection though WILD and its ability to

monitor ranger performance. All ranger stations are now recording data daily on their smartphones and sending to HQ every evening.

On the 15th of September, we submitted an application for two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to be piloted by the CEO. The application process was rather extensive and needed a number of supporting documentation including UAV insurance, which was purchased.

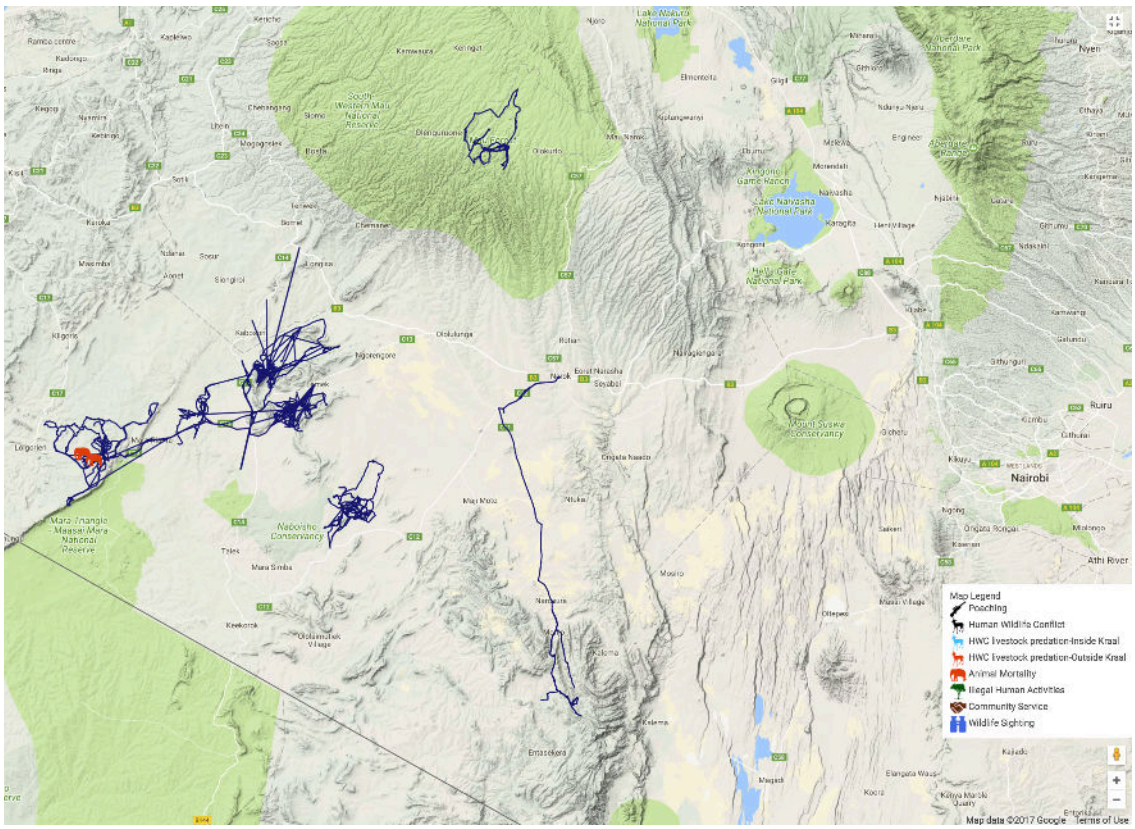
WILD detailed report: Submitted by Wilson Sairowua
MEP Rangers Report - September 2017

Introduction:

Previously MEP rangers have been recording MIKE and HEC data manually with text message updates sent daily to HQ via mobile phones and written reports are recorded daily using a report book and brought to the HQ at the end of the month. Photographs taken by camera are also submitted at the end of the month and patrol tracks recorded by GPS are downloaded every two weeks.

Extracting the necessary information form the six books, patrol logs, cameras and GPS was extremely time consuming and left large margins for error. WILD is a mobile application design to improve the collection, sharing, management and analysis of ranger data. MEP has been using the WILD app since its inception in 2016. Unfortunately, rangers have not been collecting the data daily as required. Now all the rangers are required to log their patrols and incidents into WILD. This data collection is what guides us to directing our resources to the areas it's needed most.

Patrol Details:
The below screenshot illustrates the main concentration of our patrol teams and the reconnaissance team's tracks in Loita and Mau.



Recording Patrols
For the month of September MEP rangers managed to cover a distance of 1,072 km on foot and 1,133 km by car. The Enkutoto team covered the largest distance this month on foot at 362 km. Ranger's patrols logs are sent daily by each team and this is quite different compared to the GPS, which the rangers bring after every two weeks. These tracks will actually award the best team each quarter.

Wildlife Sightings
The easiest way of recording wildlife sightings is by taking photos on mobile phones and sending them immediately, which is a much quicker method of transferring the photos then rangers bringing their cameras and downloading the images after every two weeks. The team, which recorded the most sightings, was Olkinyei Conservancy and they sent good photographic evidence of the herd.

Recording Incidents:

Human wildlife conflicts
For the above period, we did not have to many incidents, Munyas and Kawai team recorded crop raiding incidents four and three days respectively, currently it's planting season hence less cases of conflicts, this will rise immediately when crops ripen. Property destruction of elephants breaking up fences was also recorded by Munyas.

Poaching
No poaching cases this month

Animal mortality
A dead elephant was found in Ildungisho village, the carcass was reported by Olkinyei team. The cause of death considered as human-elephant conflict, the cause was a spear wound.

Illegal human activity
Mobile team patrolling in the Loita and Mau Forest has been recording logging incidents inside the forest. Four people were arrested for logging in the Loita Naimina Enkiyio Forest.

The below report was built by the tracking manager and we will need to work with PREPARED and Strathmore university to generate reports automatically.

Rangers patrol report	Kawai	HQ	Munyas	Enkutoto	Olkinyei	Mobile team
Hours on patrol per month	116HRS	65hrs	147hrs	242hrs	108hrs	165hrs
Distance walked per month (Foot)	156	87	187	362	143	137
NO.of target points visited per month	–	–	–	–	–	–
No.of elephants sighted per month	54	7	65	116	536	14
Days of WILD data submitted	23	17	26	24	26	24
Days of WILD data Missing	4	10	1	3	1	3
No.of qualities photos submitted	1	2	4	2	12	0
No.of incident per month	1	0	4	0	2	2
HEC	1	0	4	0	1	0

POACHING	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANIMAL MORTALITY	0	0	0	0	0	0
PROPERTY DESTRUCTION	0	0	1	0	1	2
ILLEGAL HUMAN ACTIVITIES	0	0	0	0	0	0
No.of poachers caught per month	0	0	0	0	0	0
No. of snares recovered per month	0	1	0	0	0	0
Days of Gps data submitted	0	0	0	0	0	0
All issued equipment present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Condition of equipment	Good	Good	Good	Good	Phone battery needs replacement.	Good
Distance covered by vehicle	477km	89km	567	_	_	_
Distance covered by motorbike	_	_	_	173	_	_
Vehicle breakages during the month	(KBV 539R) Loose spring and shocks currently replacing	Suzuki KCA 640z.good and almost to service		_	_	_
Motorbike breakages during the month	_	_	_	KMDN 034W Motorbike repaired after water incident at Olkinyei. Need Pressure pump	Kmdn052W Good condition.	KCB, Shocks absorbers replacement at the end of the month_

Issues, which need to be rectified:

Issue	Reason	Possible fix	MGT
Vehicle Odometers are not reading the same KM's as WILD. WILD is recording fewer KMS.	Rangers are not recording trips to refuel and ferrying rangers to patrol spots. Also they are not reporting trips at night to HEC incidents	Drivers independently record all movements of the vehicle even if it is fueling and dropping rangers.	Purchase 3 phones for the drivers
Rangers not recording incidents on wild.	Ranger could be lazy. In the heat of the moment forget to stop and record an incident. Education limitations, lack of training	Incidents can be recorded post incident in camp. Rangers will be evaluated on the number of days, KMS patrolled, no. of incidents recorded. Run further training sessions.	Issue warning to teams not recording WILD data and bonus for best team performance
Automated reporting	USAID and Strathmore never built a automated reporting program with pulls WILD data	They are working on this and hopefully will also be able to plug into SMART and DAS	Keep up with this progress and train on SMART
Rangers recording foot patrols but going on a motorbike. Inflating foot patrol KMs recorded	Rangers want to show that they have done extensive foot patrols to increase their performance rating.	Compare motorbike ODM record with WILD numbers. Measure spaces between GPS points to show speed. Compare motorbike tracker data with wild data	Issue warning to rangers continually cheat the system
Multiple recordings of the same elephants causing inflated elephant numbers	That they are not filling in the details section indicating it is the same herd	Fill out details section stating it was the same herd as previous day/s	Retrain on this attribute

Fundraising:
MEP received a generous donation from Expert Drones this month to support the UAV program. We have also been selected as a beneficiary of this year's Tusk Safaricom Marathon and were invited to apply for a grant. There were two concept notes submitted during this reporting period. MEP is working on getting verified on Facebook and adding donation capabilities. We are also starting to market our helicopter Generosity campaign again. MEP's website was updated and re-launched on the 11th September including an enhanced Donate page with options for monthly giving.

Partnership Development:
Angama Lodge is running a Mara-themed photography competition, which is due to be launched on 1st November 2017. MEP has been chosen as one of six local charities that will benefit from the $20 competition entry fee with entrants nominating the charity they wish to support. Angama have also kindly offered to showcase MEP's work in their new photography studio which is currently being built, including displaying one of MEP's old satellite tracking collars, giving guests the opportunity to sponsor a new one.

Security:
A gang has been operating in MEP's area of operation as previously reported. In September, the same suspected gang hit Mararienta on the 22nd September and then Aitong on the 27th September where they shot and wounded an Administration Police man. The gang is suspected

to come from Transmara and the Intel unit is working on the case with the police and local administration.

The Intel unit uncovered ivory sellers in Nairobi and set up a fake buy in the Kibera area along the railroad tracks. Our undercover ranger and informant met up with an undercover Kenya Wildlife Service team from their HQ and conducted the sting operation on the 26th of August. Unfortunately, during the arrest one of the suspects managed to turn the KWS officer's pistol muzzle onto the KWS officer and fired one round, which went through her thigh. They still managed to arrest the suspect and recover 36 kg of ivory. She was admitted to hospital and made a quick recovery.

Incidents SitReps:

Bush meat recovered and arrest: 19/8/17.	2 suspects arrested in Transmara area with 33 kgs Zebra meat. Suspect taken to Lolgorian police station and booked.
Bush meat recovered and arrest: 19/8/17.	2 suspects arrested in Transmara area with 30 kgs Hippo meat. Suspect taken to Lolgorian police station and booked.
Ivory recovered and arrest: 26/8/17	1 suspect arrested in Nairobi Kibera area with 36kgs ivory. Suspect taken to Kibera police station and booked.
Dead elephant on: 27/8/2017	A dead elephant was found in Olare Orok conservancy near OOC headquarters by OOC rangers during their normal routine patrol, the cause of death considered as unknown. Tusks were recovered and handed over to the KWS Ewaso Ngiro station. Mike file number: 18/17
Dead elephant on: 12/9/2017	A dead elephant was found in Ildungisho village, the carcass was reported by local chief to the KWS rangers in Ildungisho village. The cause of death considered as Human elephant conflict, the raw cause was spear wound. Tusks were recovered and handed over to the KWS Ewaso Ngiro station. Mike file number: 19/17

HEC

HEC has decline significantly in this period. We are however gearing up for the next season by raising funds for the helicopter, making sure WILD is working for HEC recording, buying firecrackers and ensuring we strategically deploy when the season starts.

In the Transmara and Olongolin areas farmers have started planting (end of September). That means that our conflict season will start at the end of November.

HEC SITREP

DATE	SECTOR		CROPS	ACTION/OPERATION DETAILS	MEANS
01/08/2017	Munyas		Maize farms	Push elephants out of maize farm	by use of car& firecrackers
8/6/16	Endoinyio Narasha		settlement	HEC in Oldonyo Narasha moved big herd back to Olkinyei	By use of helicopter
8/8/17	Isokon		maize farms	Move elephants down the escarpment	by use of car& firecrackers
8/9/17	Endoinyio erinka		settlement	Move HEC elephants out of Oldonyo Erinka fences	By use of helicopter
8/9/17	Munyas		Settlement	Move HEC elephants out of Munyas area back to Laila Forest	By use of helicopter
8/10/17	Isokon		maize farms	HEC at Isokon move elephants down the escarpment	By use of helicopter
8/11/17	Nyamuhanga		maize farms	HEC Nyamanga TZ move elephants out of farms	By use of helicopter
13/08/2017	Munyas		Maize farms	move elephants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
15/08/2017	Isokon		Maize farms	chase elephants out of farms at night down to the conservancy	by use of car& firecrackers
20/08/2017	Kawai		Maize farms	Blocking elephants before destroying farms	by use of car& firecrackers
21/08/2017	Kawai		Maize farms	chase elephants out of farms at night	by use of car& firecrackers
25/08/2017	Munyas		Maize farms	Move elephants out of farms and settlement	by use of car& firecrackers
07/08/2017	Keneti		Maize farms	Chase elephants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
13/09/2017	Kawai		Maize farms	Move elephants out of farms back to Lemek conservancy	by use of car& firecrackers
17/09/2017	Olopikidongoe		Maize farms	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
20/09/2017	Kawai		maize farms	Move elephants out of settlement after killing two cows	by use of car& firecrackers
22/09/2017	Munyas		Maize farms	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
25/09/2017	Kawai		Maize farms	Move elephants out of farms	by use of car& firecrackers
26/09/2017	Munyas		maize farms	Move elephants out of farms	by use of motorbike & firecrackers

Helicopter Update:
We have used the helicopter very little in this reporting period due to the decrease in HEC. The Certificate of Airworthiness and the CEO's license also expired in August and September and will be renewed.

Elephant Tracking:
On the 10th of September Lucy's collar broke off in the Nyekweri Forest. She was difficult to collar initially and we will need to work to find and collar her or another member of her herd in the thick forest.

On the 6th of August Nkoidilla's collar broke off in the Naikara near Loita. We are doubtful that she can be relocated and recollared. We have notified World Wildlife Fund of this and collected the collar.

Elephant Chiri had some interesting movements. She went on the 28th of August to the Loita Forest. We sent a team there to monitor her and she then came back very close to her starting point in Siana on the 12th of September. This is the first collared elephant to move into the Loita Forest from the Mara. The ground team recorded that she was with four elephants but there were many herds in the forest.

Elephant Courtney was treated on the 23rd of August in the Musiara Swamp area in the MMNR. When she was colled we pulled out 12 arrows and during treatment a 13th arrow was pulled out. Soon after he treatment she moved into the Mara North Conservancy.

Ivy has been moving into farms which do not have crops. We suspect she and her family are targeting family gardens and pumpkin patches.

Hanzhou seems to be staging on the base of the Siria Escaprment but has not gone into farms.

Although not part of MEP's mandate we assisted the Mara Conservancy to source and deploy an eartag on one of their rhinos called "Naeku".

Staff:
Each Friday morning, we will have officer's meetings at the HQ. All rangers were re-trained on WILD and were notified that performance will be measured using WILD reports.