MEP November 2017 Report

mara elephant project

Loading the orphan elephant into the helicopter for transfer to the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage in Nairobi.

General:

This month the rains have continued. The area toward Siana has had significantly less rain than the area toward the east. We are very pleased to report that we were successful in collaring two individuals in the Mau Forest Complex- the Narok Mau section. The ground team spent three weeks tracking the elephants until they were in a suitable area for collaring. We are concerned there is little to no connectivity between the eastern and western Mau and propose to collar two additional elephants in the Kericho portion of the Mau. The collared elephants in the Mau have already shown interesting movements very close to settlements. The collars and geofences will inform our ground team as to when the elephants move into farms so that we can mitigate the conflict in a timely manner. There has been an outbreak of spearing of elephants in the Siana area, probably as a result of the girl who was injured by an elephant in Ngoswani Center; however, we are not ruling out a second spate of poaching which has been quiet since 2015. We will be focusing our patrol groups and intel group in this area.

Fundraising:

Victoria Fanthorpe has moved on from MEP in her Development Director capacity. We wish her the best and will continue to move forward with Communications Director Claire Bolles in the new year. On “Giving Tuesday” MEP illustrated our strategic partnerships with Expert

Drones, The Maa Trust and Elephantics, which resulted in a huge increase in visits to the MEP Facbook page, the MEP website and direct donations of 800USD thus far.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs):
Now that we have the license to operate UAVs we're exploring all of our options to train all of our rangers.

Research:
Jake Wall from Save The Elephants has all of the data he needs to start the range paper and we expect that this will be in rough draft form by the end of the year. We have updated the conflict reporting and mitigation reporting forms with help from PhD. candidate Nathan Hahn. This update was crucial to be able to statistically analyze the conflict data and measure the effect MEP is having on conflict.

Partnership Development:
United Nations Environment Programme has contacted us about hosting one of their celebrity ambassadors in December so we hope we'll be able to announce a new partnership soon.

Security:
We have homed in on the gang, which was causing all the problems the last several months. There have been no further incidents since then.

Incidents site rep

Dead elephant on: 8/11/2017.	A dead elephant was found in Olkinyei conservancy; the carcass was reported by MEP HQ team. The cause of death considered as Human elephant conflict, the raw cause was spear wound. Tusks were recovered and handed over to the KWS Ewuaso Ngiro station. Mike file number 21/17.
Ivory recovered and arrest: 11/11/17.	Two suspects arrested in Kihancha town by the KWS rangers and MEP intel team, with 12kgs ivory. Suspect taken to Kihancha police station and booked.
Bush meat recovered and arrest: 18/11/17.	One suspect arrested in Mau forest by the KWS and MEP rangers, with 10 kgs Bushbuck meat. Suspect taken to Olenkuruone police station and booked.

Left: Ivory recovered from the Tanzania border. Right: bush meat poacher arrested in Mau.

Patrol Report:

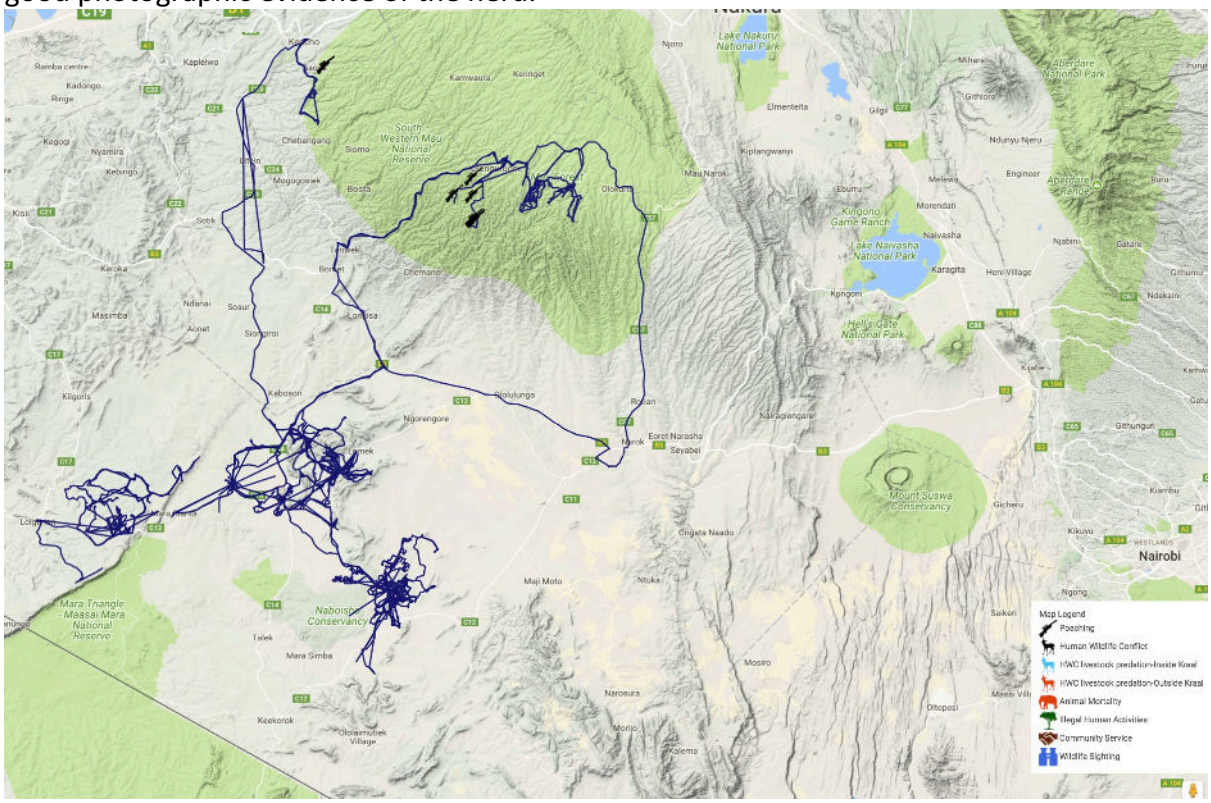
November has been a month of collaring for MEP rangers the patrol teams have been following elephants every day in their respective patrol areas. During the period, we start reporting using DAS, which generates report unlike WILD. Although we are still using WILD to record ranger tracks, daily incidents are recorded on DAS.

Recording Patrols

For the month of November, MEP rangers managed to cover a distance of 999.5 kms on foot 1,724 kms by car and 266 kms by motorbike. The Enkutoto team covered the largest distance this month at 248.2 kms. These tracks will help to award the best team for each quarter. There's much improvement compared to last month on kilometers covered. There is also change of patrol movement pattern. Although there is some patrol data missing, we are working out how to reduce errors.

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 photos than rangers bringing their cameras and downloading the images after every two weeks. In this period rangers managed to record 1,106 elephants. The team which recorded the most sightings was Olkinyei Conservancy, which recorded 505 elephants this month and sent good photographic evidence of the herd.



All ranger patrols from November

Rangers patrol report	Kawai	Oloisukut	Munyas	Enkutoto	Olkinyei	Mobile team	
Hours on patrol per month	117:24:30	126:38:50	162:09:07	318:00:47	80:58:42	210:55:14	1016:07:10
Distance walked per month (Foot)	86.1	169.4	181.7	248.2	123.3	190.8	999.5

NO.of target points visited per month	8	6	1	3	4	12	34
No.of elephants sighted per month	160	278	45	130	439	54	1106
Days of WILD data submited	21	25	26	29	28	24	153
Days of WILD data Missing	9	5	4	1	2	6	27
No.of qualities photos submited	2	0	3	0	2	4	11
No.of incident per month	8	3	1	1	1	4	18
HEC	4	3					7
POACHING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ANIMAL MORTALITY	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
PROPERTY DESTRUCTION	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
ILLEGAL HUMAN ACTIVITIES	3	0	1	1	0	4	9
No.of poachers caught per month	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
No. of snares recovered per month	0	0	2	0	1	3	6
All issued equipment present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Condition of equipent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good	0
Distance covered by vehicle	446	244	210.4	0	178.8	644.8	1724
Distance covered by motorbike	0	0	21	184.6	61.2	_	266.8
Vehicle breakages during the month	KBV 359R Good condition	KCA 640Z Good condition	KBR 807 Starter replaced		_	Wiring of Landcruiser KCB033Y	
Motorbike breakages during the month				kMDN 034W good condition	Kmdn052W Good condition.		

HEC:

This month we only experienced a few HEC incidents. These were related to elephants in settlements, crop raiding recently planted maize farms, and disturbing livestock herds. The two new forms for recording conflict sites and mitigation effect are ready and will be adopted in December.

DATES	SECTOR NAME	CROPS	ACTION/OPERATION DETAILS	MEANS
10/28/17	Pusanki	Maize farms	Push elephants out of maize farm	by use of car& firecrackers
11/3/17	Ilonin Transmara	settlement	Push elephants out of farms to Oloisukuto conservancy	by use of car& firecrackers
11/5/17	Ngosuani	Settlement / Human injured	Move elephants out of settlement and EMS girl to Tenwek Hospital	By use of helicopter
11/11/17	Ilookwaya Transmara	maize farms	Move elephants down the escarpment	by use of firecrackers
11/16/17	Engos Nanyokie	maize farms	move elephants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
11/19/17	Pusanki	settlement	moved big herd to Olkinyei conservancy after breaking school fence	by use of car& firecrackers
11/23/17	Kirindon	maize farms	Move elephants out of famrs to Oloisukut conservancy	by use of car& firecrackers
11/24/17	Pusanki	Maize farms	Push elephants back to safe area from settlement	by use of car& firecrackers
11/24/17	Kirindon	Maize farms	move elephants out of farms to Nyakweri forest	By use of car

Elephant Tracking:

We were successful in collaring two candidates in the Mau Forest. We were skeptical about being able to do this. The rapid response unit on the ground followed the elephant herds for several weeks and once they found each herd in a suitable area we managed to scramble the helicopter and Kenya Wildlife Service vet team to deploy the collars. The collaring operation was executed without incident and we have named the female elephant Nancy and the male elephant Wilber. We re-collared elephant Limo after his collar dropped off. We deployed two experimental collars in Olarro Conservancy while they were getting treated. We believe that the more temporary collars will give us valuable insight as to the recovery of treated animals.

Solar GSM ear tag deployed on an elephant injured by a spear in Siana. The bolt was cut flush with the lock nut.

Helicopter:

This month we did a lot of flying for the various collaring operations. The flying for the collaring was challenging at it was at very high altitude (8,500ft) and in confined areas. Two notable flight were collecting an orphaned elephant and taking it to Nairobi to the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage and an EMS flight for a young girl to Tenwek Hospital. The C.E.O. also did some personal flying. The owner of the helicopter Karsten Ree came out and spent some time with us.

Date	Time	Amount	Mission	Pay sourc
11/1/17	0.4	160	Meeting with Meru Wazee in Maua	Marc Goss
11/3/17	1	400	Meru to Nanyuki	Marc Goss
11/3/17	1.3	520	Nanyuki to Mara	MEP
11/5/17	1.4	560	EMS flight to Ngoswani to collect girl and fly to Tenwek	MEP
11/6/17	0.9	360	Check injured baby elephant, check crop status emarti	MEP
11/8/17	0.3	120	Retrieve rhino ear tag from triangle	MEP
11/10/17	1.1	440	Collar in Ollaro area and treatment	MEP
11/14/17	0.5	200	Reposition Kbc	KBC
11/15/17	0.8	320	Drop WWF rep at Serena	KBC
11/16/17	5	2000	Collaring Nancy in the Mau forest, collect and drop vet	MEP
11/16/17	0.4	160	Drop WWF rep at Serena again	KBC
11/17/17	0.4	160	Collect WWF rep from Serena	KBC

11/17/17	3.2	1280	Ferry Karsten friends to recollaring limo	KBC
11/18/17	1	400	ground truthing with Michael Munk	KBC
11/18/17	1	400	Aerial monitoring Hugo, Fred and Kegol	MEP
11/19/17	1	400	Fishing in Kericho	Marc Goss
11/19/17	1	400	Ferry Karsten and friends to sundowner spot	KBC
11/19/17	1	400	Collect baby elephant at MMNR and take to KWS research	DSWT
11/20/17	2	800	Take baby elephant to Nairobi and return Mara	DSWT
11/21/17	2	800	Treating and collaring Rudisha in Olkinyei	MEP
11/22/17	3	1200	Collaring Wilber in the Mau forest, collect and drop vet	MEP
11/24/17	0.4	160	Drop Ian Giddings at OlKuruk	Marc Goss
	28.7	**$11,640**		

Collaring Wilber in the Mau Forest.