OPERATIONAL REPORT

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BONGO SURVEILLANCE PROJECT
July to September 2018 - MAASAI MAU/ SW MAU FORESTS

Summary News for this Quarter:-

The Maasai Mau bongo situation has been of concern during this quarter as community have been recorded in the area with dogs. This situation has now been addressed, with the BSP team and local Community. A site visit to Maasai Mau community took place with Mike Prettejohn and BSP team 9th October to highlight the evidence (on camera trap) and to go through the importance of protecting this bongo group. The Ministry of Education, Rose Kudate located at Narok also attended this site visit. She attended the Patron's Workshop 9 October. Through, her observations of the conservation education, the area MOE could now be considering, integrating the Bongo Wildlife Clubs- Conservation Curriculum, into their mainstream curriculum, which is very exciting news.

We are hopeful with the Forestry teams, at Itare and Mara Mara stations and with the new lead forester at Bomet, the BSP can work in partnership in setting up much needed community meetings, in areas of concern. With, the new forest legislation and KFS teams it will be helpful to establish conservation agreements, with the necessary authority support.

Terms of Reference for Mountain Bongo reintroduction has been initially agreed with KWS and meeting to take this forward took place 16 October 2018.

Below – shows a sample of the wildlife - leopard

BSP SURVEILLANCE FOR S.W.MAU FOREST

AUGUST 2018 – ISLA AND FINLAYS – TEAM REPORTING

There are records of Human intrusion with timber; charcoal, poaching and domestic stock. The Garmin maps together with hand camera images show the extent of this during August.

The August reports provided by Stanley's team for Finlays, and Laban's for ISLA give the following details combined:- Number of snares retrieved – 18 - Finlays area around camp forest and 7 from Laban from Monges, Tegat and Langam. Charcoal kilns destroyed from Finlays (2) around Saosa, and (6) around Kitala, Labokwo and Bosta. 17 posts were destroyed around Tuiyobei, and 10 posts around Mulombo and Kobol. One arrest was made in the Bosta area. 2 dogs with poachers were seen around Savana near Finlays and 3 poachers with dogs around Kitala. Cattle were observed at Langam and Tuiyobei

Laban found donkeys loaded with cut grass. The culprit has completed community service and will be monitored by the chief, in this instance.

For the first time, for some years, the BSP trackers reported elephant traps from their surveillance with Mara Elephant Project in July and the KWS team. 5 elephant traps – were sadly found and collected at Kibara.

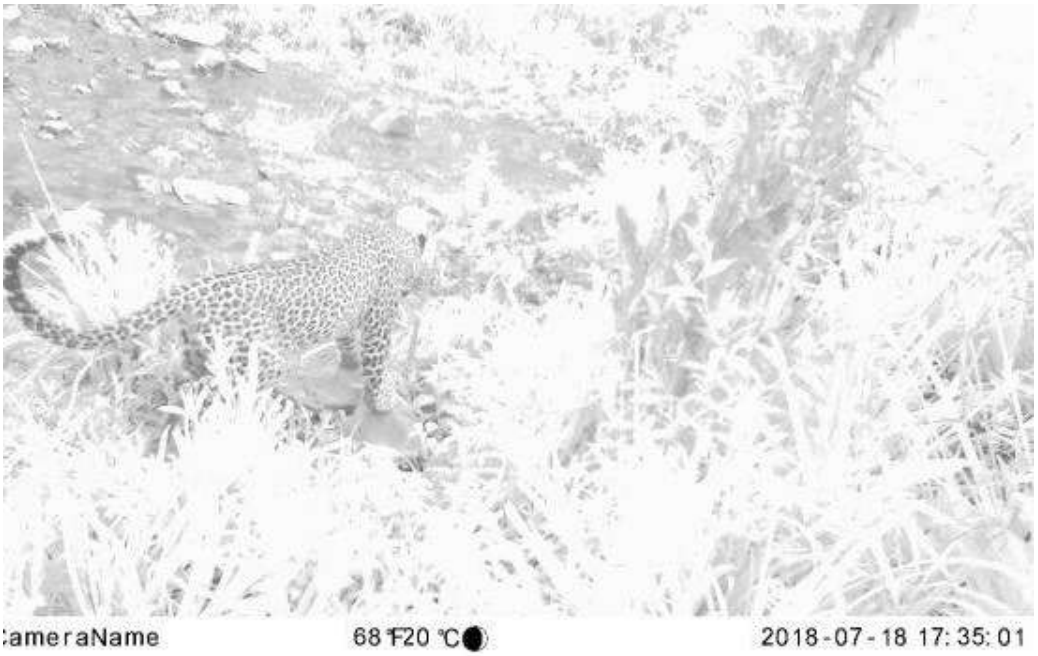
Of the 6 trap cameras, 2 were destroyed by Elephant, one of which is reparable. They have both been replaced. In spite of the 2 being destroyed their memory cards were retrieved giving a total of 8,447photo frames being downloaded. No Bongo images have been reported. Due to human intrusion, wildlife is keeping well-hidden during daylight hours. There were photographs of Bushbuck, Monkeys, Elephant, Duiker and Giant Forest Hog.

<u>Photographs taken from Finlays Team SW MAU – AUGUST 2018</u>

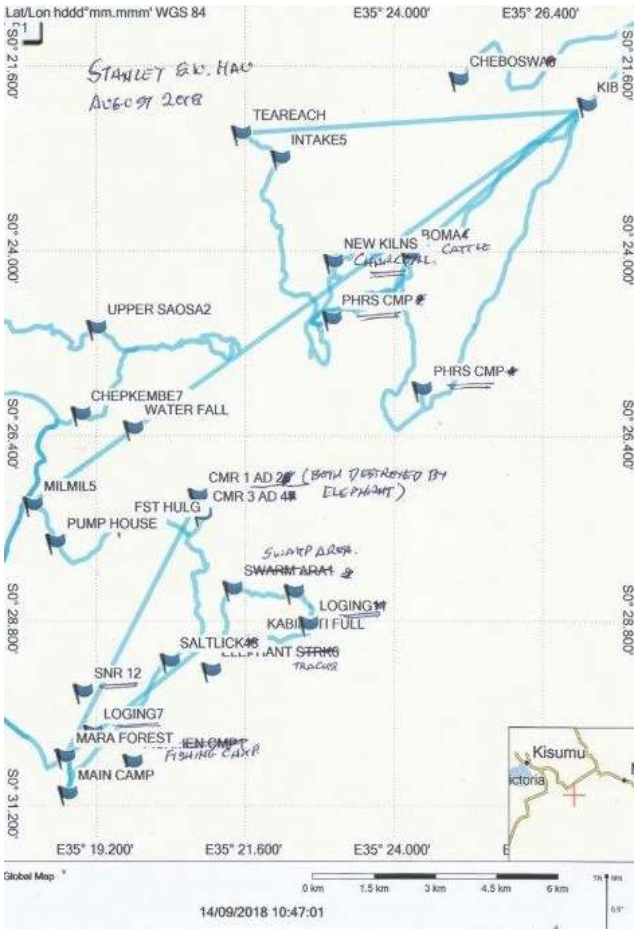
Elephant – Finlays camera trap

Above :- Tree Planting **Timber extraction**

Cattle Grazing - Cattle were observed at Langam and Tuiyobei



Leopard on camera trap



SW Mau – Stanley – August 18

SW Mau – Laban ISLA/ July 18

Laban's hand camera – Donkeys removing hay Monges area / Logging example

Above – Monkey – SW Mau

Below - Bushbuck – SW Mau

ISLA AREA – ABOVE/BELOW:- TIMBER EXTRACTION AND DESTOYING KILNS

REPORT FOR SW MAU SEPT 2018

The records from the trackers reporting in September indicate areas of human intrusion in SW Mau, notably Chepchabas, Tarkambe alongside Chemoset River, Bosto, Kitala and Kimarwandi - snaring, hunters with dogs, charcoal kilns. Timber posts – 13 noted at 2km from Tuiyobei area and reported to BSP Community Representative.

We will be following up these issues with the above communities, and with the associated new KFS representatives.

This new KFS teams are keen to support Community meetings and require information on numbers of domestic stock living within the forest (noted at Langam area in September) to see where they can be moved to, out of the forest.

The Maps both for Finlays and ISLA show the areas of tracking. A total of 2,389 photo frames were sorted – no Bongo but many bushbuck, elephant, bush pig, Duiker, Giant forest Hog and blue monkeys were observed of which a few samples are below. Almost all the trap camera photographs were at night and many showed no images of animals beyond the camera lighting. No Bongo signs, tracks or browsing found.

The BSP surveillance team will work closely with BSP Community Representative, over the next few weeks to set up meetings with stakeholders and chiefs in the above areas. The BSP are scheduling meetings within the Bosto areas. For support it is necessary to ensure KFS and the necessary authorities' are part of these essential meetings.

In addition, new schools have been included into the BSP School Programme – including schools from Bosta, Kobor and Keipleleito. See more information under Bongo Wildlife Clubs.

Above/Below – September – Maps indicating Tracking by Surveillance Teams

Photographs SW Mau – September 2018

Above: Waterfall, Timber Extraction, Snaring, Giant Forest Hog (Stanley)

Elephant – SW Mau (Stanley)

Below – Post Cutting/Cattle grazing – September 2018 – Laban hand photographs

BSP REPORT FOR MAASAI MAU AUGUST 2018

Peter and Hirum Mwangi together with KFS/KWS spent from 18th-28th August in the Maasai Mau Forest to download the cameras and to assess the conditions and illegal Human intrusion, that until August has been excellent with the support of the local Community and BSP support Ndorobo trackers. The KWS/KFS located in Maasai Mau area have forbidden local community entry to forest. The local community representative and Ndorobo employed by BSP have requested specific "BSP identification" letters so they can continue monitoring the area, as previously.

The BSP team found records of human intrusion on camera trap, near to the Ranger post. 120 Cedar posts had been cut ready to move out, and Donkey transport was in the area. The culprits with the donkeys although were arrested, were later dismissed, as it was not proven they were associated with the cedar post cutting

The Garmin map gives the co-ordinates and the photographs showing the donkeys and posts. Not only tree destruction but hunters with dogs were also taken by surprise. One camera failed to work and has been returned for repairing. Whilst the other four had a total of 7,959 frames of which 431 were kept of Bongo.

However, all of these were taken late at night, whilst on previous camera trap photographs there were some daylight photos.

Below – Timber posts – at Maasai Mau

Night camera trap photographs of Maasai Mau groups

Above; Maasai Mau Bongo – July 2018

September 2017

BSP CONSERVATION EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMME .

MAASAI MAU SCHOOL/COMMUNITY

MAASAI MAU-SCHOOL/ COMMUNITY. - VISIT TO WILLIAM HOLDEN/MT KENYA GAME RANCH.

- Visit dates-August 17th -19th Osanangururi pry / community).
- 62 pax (40 pupils and 20 community members)

FEEDBACK

KIMORGO-Community elder.

"This is an opportunity to learn and go back and implement in our area. I have learnt how to start a tree nursery with little resources. This is an eye opener to me. With joint efforts between community and BSP we will move far in terms of conservation. BSP have opened up a room for improvement in conservation and community livelihoods. This is my first time to out of my home town. Thank BSP and management".

DANSON-HEADTEACHER-OSANANGURURI PRY

"The exposure that these children are experiencing is unique considering the remote area that they come from. From my past experience, the pupils who visited earlier last year improved their academic grades with a margin by 60% in related subjects. Also I have seen great change with community members who had exposure earlier. BSP programmes have continued making great change in our community to enlighten them through these conservation field trips. We are 100% in support of this programme for the conservation of Bongo in our area. We have seen the bongo and this gives us more reason to conserve the ones in the wild in our area". He commented.

THOMAS-STD SIX PUPIL-OSANANGRURI PRY.

"I thank BSP for this opportunity to visit this area. Today I have seen and touched the bongo and I have seen the great efforts done by conservationist to bring the numbers back to our forest. It is hard work and lots of sacrifices. This reminds me how lucky we are that we have the bongo in our forest. I intend to do a career in conservation to help the wildlife and their

habitat. I am sure with little support from my parents / fellow pupils and teachers; we can change our forest to be better habitat for bongo ".

William Holden Visit – SW Mau "NEW" Schools – 29 & 30 August 2018 – 62 persons

6-7 Oct 18 Patrons Workshop – Annual

Attended: by 27 teachers and community members. The agenda included: Conservation Film "Voice for the Voiceless" loss of keystone species. SEE BELOW FEEDBACK AND ON KEY PROJECT 2018 – TREE PLANTING.

A lecture was delivered, by Samuel Njuki – Wildlife Biologist MKGR on "Climate Change" and "Global Warming". Other presentations were by Mike Prettejohn on Bongo in the wild, together with forest updates and the progress of the work with communities. Updates, by visual photographs showed individual projects and their developments during 2018.

"Drowning in Plastics" – BBC October report discussed together with new initiative - plastic bag ban – in Kenya. The key environmental concerns of river arteries getting blocked by waste plastics were discussed.

Workshop Attendance Certificates, a thank you letter for appreciation were presented, to close the annual workshop.

Feedback – from Patrons on Workshop and Benefits

IRENE AYAKO OLJORAI PRY –EBURRU.

"This is the way forward. We have come a long way, but as today through bsp education programme, we have produced a conservation booklet that we can call our own. This shows

maturity in the programme through the BSP schools Club Patrons. This booklet is simple with basic conservation knowledge that can be read and understood by community, school pupils and teachers, to help in their curriculum as a supplementary book.

ROSE KUDATE-CSO (Curriculum support officer)-Narok. MOE

Rose came as an invited guest and as an observer. She had this to say;

"I am amazed by this small organization, its impact is great. This is the first organization to have taken the initiative of conservation education role trying, through behaviour change towards conservation in general. They provide alternatives to forest products dependence. I am interested in finding out more about this program and how it can be integrated in mainstream curriculum".

KWS-ABERDARE-COMMUNITY EDUCATION WARDEN –LUCY MWANGI

- Role Overview--Responsible for conservation education in Aberdares-150 schools.
- Brief on KWS role in conservation education working with schools and community.
- She appreciated BSP for its role in Conservation education, whilst improving the living standard of the community and giving alternatives on wood fuel and others.

"***KWS has benefited a lot from BSP programmes / work especially from Surveillance team(intelligence information) and outreach team lead by Peter Munene in ground preparation for conservation awareness through different ecosystems".***

Feedback from workshop –discussions.

Benefits:

- Introduction of solar lamps has improved learners performance.
- Increased conservation knowledge level
- Publication of the first conservation booklet by BSP wildlife clubs Patrons and pupils.
- Installation of piped water and rainwater harvesting to schools and community has improved hygiene thus improving health, labour production and conducive learning facilities.
- Source of income- Income generating projects have been initiated.eg, bee keeping, Tree nurseries, fish farming and dairy goat farming.
- TREE NURSERY ESTABLISHMENT-This has helped to expand the forest cover and rehabilitation both in schools and at community level.
- SENSITIZATION- Through seminar, conservation films, Patrons workshops / Annual general meetings and community outreach barazas has helped in conservation awareness messages delivery.
- Reduced forest illegal activities-poaching, charcoal burning, tree poaching.
- EXPOSURE-of learners through conservation field trips to get first -hand information, hence improved academic grades.
- Through exchange programmes, community have gained more knowledge in income generating activities hence upgraded living standards.

- Improved working relationship between community and other key partners and stakeholders.

- Job opportunities, creation of jobs through the BSP programmes.

Tree Assessment 2018

BSP SCHOOLS (BONGO WILDLIFE CLUBS) –TREES ASSESSMENT-2018.

JUNE-SEPT 2018

NO.	SCHOOL NAME	DURATION	CURRENT NO.OF TREES.	TREE NURSERY ESTABLSHED.
1	KAMBURAINI PRY	2008-2018	**1800**	HAVE.
2.	MITERO PRY	2015-2018	**600**	HAVE.
3.	BONDEN PRY	2009-2018	**1100**	HAVE.
4.	GICHAMI PRY	2009-2018	**900**	NON.
5.	KARURUMO PRY	2009-2018	**2020**	NON.
6.	GATHIRATHIRU PRY	2010-2018	**920**	NON.
7.	NDABIBI PRY	2010-2018	**3000**	HAVE.
8.	NDIBITHI PRY	2013-2018	**750**	NON.
9.	SONGOLOI PRY	2010-2018	**2130**	HAVE.
10.	MOROP PRY	2013-2018	**1150**	NON.
11.	OLJORAI PRY	2015-2018	**1730**	NON.
12.	TANGI TANO PRY	2010-2018	**1010**	NON.
13	NDABIBI SECONDARY	2015-2018	**1307**	NON.
14	TENDUET PRY	2013-2018	**400**	NON
15.	NYOIKENA PRY	2013-2018	**150**	NON.
16.	TUIYOBEI PRY	2013-2018	**700**	NON
17.	EMBOMOS PRY	2014-2018	**315**	NON.
18.	KITALA PRY	2014-2018	**412**	NON
19.	OSANANGURURI PRY	2016-2018	**210**	NON.
		2018-Total	**20,604**	

CHALLENGES.

- SECURITY-lack of school compound fence, leading to domestic animals destroying trees.

- WATER SHORTAGE-Due to less water storage containers, no pipe water, and no rain water harvesting system.

- Theft-some community members stealing seedling and replanting in their homes.

- Shortage of tree seedlings and seeds.

- Funds-Lack of money to purchase seedlings / potting bags/ tree nursery materials.

SUCCESSES

- INCOME-some schools have made income out of seedlings sales, eg-Tuiyobei pry,Ndabibi pry and Songoloi pry.
- BEAUTY-Trees have beautified the school and acted as wind breaker and place to relax under the trees shade eg. Picnic lunch under trees.
- MATERIALS-some schools have used the trees to make desks eg. Kamburaini pry and Oljorai pry.(used blue gum-7 years old).
- Have increased school compound forest cover.
- Controlled soil erosion eg. At Ndibithi pry and Tuiyobei pry.
- Pupils and teachers have gained knowledge in tree nursery establishment and tree care.
- Improved grades in Agriculture / social studies and science subjects due to exposure to forestry practices connecting to those subjects.
- Introduction of tree planting from school to community have increased and embraced.
- FIREWOOD-Schools and community are using fast growing trees after pruning as firewood energy for cooking and warming the houses.

Maasai Mau – School and Community – Familiarisation Visit - 9th October 2018

Mike Prettejohn and BSP Team with MOE rep. visited to review development of projects and issues of concern re recent Bongo Security. Above: Community present water tanks and beehives curtesy BSP Project.

BSP /Community Discussions on the following:-

- Dairy Goats – Increasing milk volume for community, health benefits
- 1 – teacher's assistant supported by BSP Community Rep.
- 12 Beehives – 36kg of honey. Workshop on harvesting/ sales. TBA December.
- New Fencing – for tree planting area, increased security around school.
- Skills development – utilisation of BSP Conservation Curriculum.

SW Mau – Visit by Mike Prettejohn and BSP team – 11/12 October 2018. Community discussions urgently required by BSP Community and BSP Trackers/KFS – Focus area Bosto. BSP Materials are available for communications. To be scheduled in November 2018.

Additional NEW Schools taking BSP Inductions:- Bosta, Kobor, Kapleleito

BSP /Community Discussions on following:-

- Requesting support from Finlays ARD with trees such as Hagenia, the germination of seeds (and improvement of seed development for Prunus Africana and “Lemon Tree”).
- Support with Bamboo pieces (15)for water scheme – protection - Tuioybei
- Support wit 150 metres of piping /Additional water tank 5000 to increase water access to Tuoiybei community – 25 homes.
- Beehives requested (a further 10 for Kitala) 2 beehives doing well.
- Protection of school Bongo Forest – particularly during holidays – request for barbed wire.
- Request dairy goat – Bosta – new school.
- Water tanks requested for Korber /Kapleleito – new schools
- Tuiyobei 25 dairy goats. 10 were BSP funded.
- BSP Community Coordinator – visits schools 2 monthly to support local Patrons.