MEP June 2023 Report

On World Environment Day MEP launched the "Lima" co-ed ranger team, our ninth team, in Mosiro to increase protection of wildlife and their habitats and promote coexistence.

GENERAL

Mosiro is an ecologically important area for elephants because it forms a linkage between key elephant habitats, yet elephants in this area are threatened and communities grow frustrated. A permanent ranger team was needed to protect not only the elephants, but communities as well. The new ranger team was recruited in February directly from people living in Mosiro and the final men and women were selected for the 10-week training at MEP's headquarters in the Mara. Over the last decade, MEP has developed a regimen of standard operating procedures for ranger training and has an in-house training course that is all led by MEP staff and can be offered to not just new MEP recruits but other organizations as well. The Mosiro recruits were joined by recruits from other nearby conservancies. A passing out parade (graduation) was held in Mosiro to celebrate their deployment.

In 2023, Mara Elephant Project will celebrate 12 years in conservation. Over that time, the organization has grown and adapted in a dynamic conservation landscape. MEP's model remains focused on building partnerships to advance our mission and a deep organizational understanding that to solve global challenges senior leadership must rely on outside expert council to guide their process. It's with this in mind that Mara Elephant Project is honored to announce the establishment of an advisory committee to act as a guide for the organization as it continues to grow. The committee members will act as a sounding board for staff and offer insight, guidance and advice as and when required. Just as MEP's rangers act as ambassadors in their communities, so too will members of the advisory committee as they'll be tasked with raising awareness about MEP's mission and impact within their networks to showcase the organization to new audiences. Please welcome the inaugural members of the MEP Advisory Committee, a diverse, talented group of industry experts that MEP is honored to have guiding the organization. We also welcomed two new board members to the USA 501(c)(3) the Sidekick Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Mara Elephant Project USA, Erica Dillow and Kevin Rodrigues.

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SECURITY, ANTI-POACHING & CONFLICT

During a routine aerial patrol in June, MEP CEO Marc Goss monitored a bull elephant in the Musiara area near Governor's Camp with three arrow wounds on his back. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Vet Dr. Njoroge from the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT) Mobile Vet Unit was immediately called in to treat the elephant. The MEP helicopter provided aerial assistance while Maasai Mara National Reserve rangers were on the ground assisting. The bull was successfully treated and back on his feet and his healing progress will continue to be monitored.

On June 19, MEP received a report of an injured bull elephant from Mara North Conservancy rangers. The bull is identified as individual number one in the MEP elephant database and is a large bull known within MEP as Edwin. MEP called in our partner KWS Vet Dr. Njoroge from the SWT Mobile Vet Unit for treatment and Marc assisted in the air with the MEP helicopter. Edwin was treated for a spear wound and monitoring efforts on the ground will continue as he heals.

In June, the MEP rangers continued with their monitoring activities of elephants in high conflict areas to check for injuries and ensure their protection.

Overall, in June, there was one ivory poaching suspect arrested alongside government partners and 0.2 kg of ivory recovered. MEP rangers removed 39 snares, arrested 11 habitat destruction suspects alongside government partners, and confiscated 70 pieces of timber and 194 posts. MEP rangers destroyed 21 charcoal sacks and 27 kilns, they also mitigated 22 conflict

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incidents. In June, MEP rangers covered a distance of 1,761 km on foot and 23,052 km by car in the GME.

HELICOPTER

Collared elephant Ivy is described internally at MEP as a "crop-a-holic" because her and her herd are not only frequent but expert crop raiders. On June 14, Ivy and her herd were raiding sorghum and maize farms in the Munyas area, and the MEP "Foxtrot" ranger team rapidly responded to move the elephants out and protect the community's crops. After several hours of using their vehicle and firecrackers, which never actually touch the elephants, with minimal results the rangers called in the MEP helicopter to provide added incentive for them to move out of the community land. CEO Marc Goss successfully moved them out and rangers remained on the ground to ensure the community was safe.

Also in June, MEP received a report from Naboisho Conservancy rangers of an injured bull elephant. MEP called in our partner KWS Vet Dr. Njoroge from the SWT Mobile Vet Unit to treat the bull for an arrow wound on his left leg and we assisted them in the air with the MEP helicopter. The bull was successfully treated, and he will continue to be closely monitored as he recovers.

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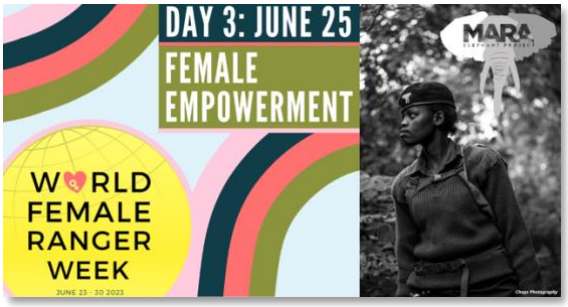
COMMUNICATIONS & FUNDRAISING



In June, MEP celebrated World Female Ranger Week, a time set aside to highlight the important conservation work undertaken by women on the frontlines of conservation.

Fifteen Mara Elephant Project rangers have the opportunity to attend a tactical training at the Kenya Wildlife Service Kenya Wildlife Law Enforcement Academy. The 3-month training will improve MEP's community ranger's skills in areas of bush craft, navigation, disaster management, first aid and community engagement. Three of the MEP female rangers attending were supported by How Many Elephants, founder of World Female Ranger Week.

Mara Elephant Project Trust in Kenya received $2,263 in donations, which included donations from Foreningen Forsvara Elefanterna, Liz Harper and Abercrombie & Kent Kenya. The Sidekick Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Mara Elephant Project USA received $251,039.65 in support of MEP's efforts. Thank you to our June supporters the Band Foundation, Lori Price, the Pamela & Richard Hinds Foundation, Mike & Margy McCormick, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Lerwick, Eileen Lengyel, Steve Casey, Nancy Munn, Nancy Cochrane, Carol Kauffman, J Gilbert, Radford Klotz, Allan Montgomery, Mary Durant, Sylvia Stevens-Buczek, Raoul Chacon, Shirley Dilger, Maria Forte, Margaret Hassett, Richard Litkenhaus, Bruce Quinnell, Lisenne Rockefeller, Gary Rosenberger, and Marion Stone.

There were 12 entries in The Greatest Maasai Mara photo competition in June. A huge thank you to all the photographers who supported MEP. *Left, an entry from Simon Smith.*

RESEARCH & CONSERVATION

Director's Update

In June, we continued to make progress on the Greater Mara Monitoring Framework that we hope will be adopted by the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI), Narok County Government and the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA). THE GMMF, once implemented, will help to streamline the collection, processing and synthesis of data about the health of the Ecosystem. We are now working some of the technical aspects of implementing the myriad indicators identified and also to finalize our report.

In June, the long-term monitoring (LTM) team and I visited the Amboseli Trust for Elephants to participate in a training course at the Amboseli Elephant Research Centre. We are collecting identification data on the existing elephant population in the Mara to build a database of known individuals. The training included both classroom and field work, where we had the opportunity

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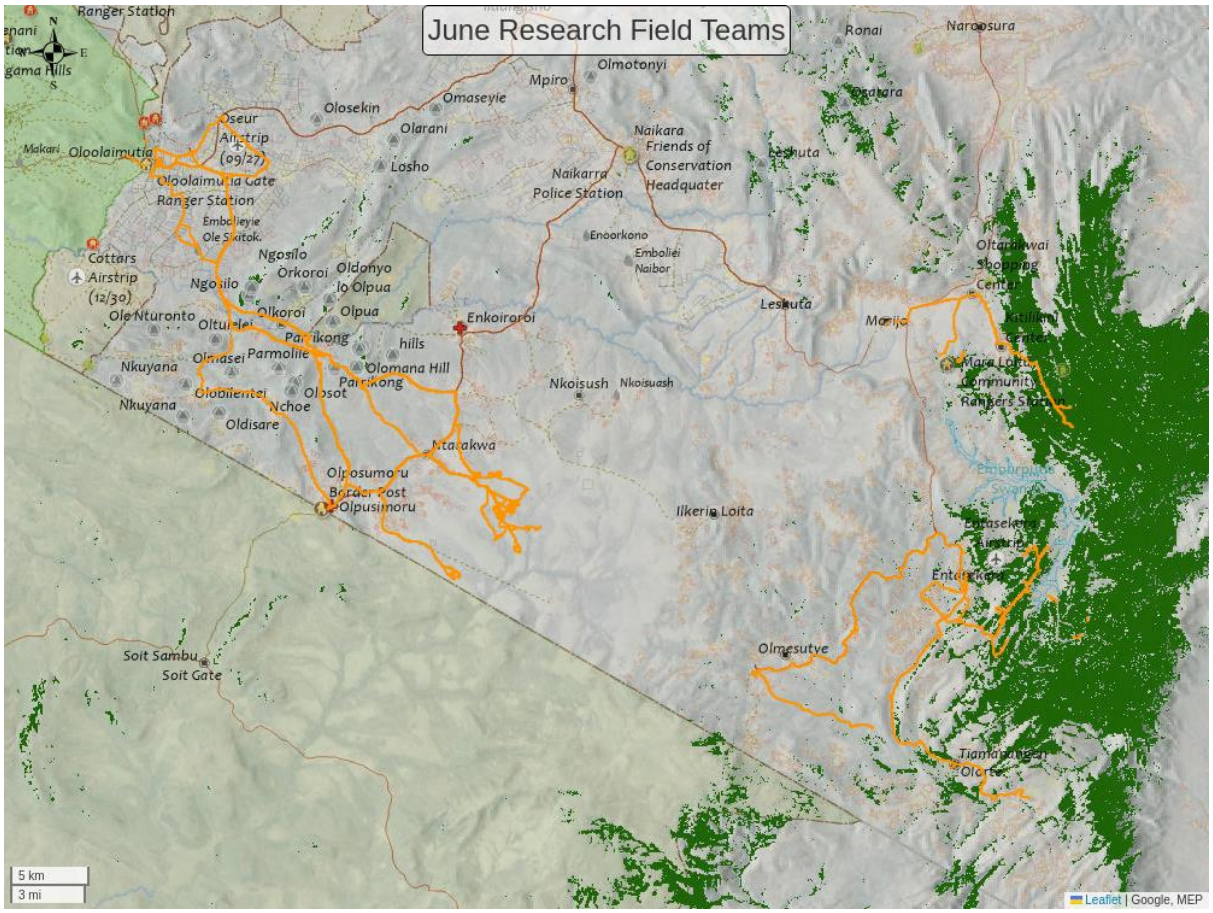
to see the famous elephant Craig, and focused on studying the aging of elephants, identifying matriarchs and developing a better understanding of elephant social behavior.

📷 © Amboseli Trust for Elephants



Movements (orange tracks) of MEP's two field assistants during June. All of our field assistants are working on mapping fences, roads and landcover ground-truthing points using motorbikes and our TerraChart app. They recorded 6.8 km of fences and 22 LCC points in June.

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MEP Co-Existence Farm

General Update

June has been a quite cold and dry month. In the beginning of the month, we had a few elephant visits and predations. We were pleased to host Michelle Ospino a New York Freelancer Journalist who was interested in covering the food production projects within conservation areas. During the last week of the month Dr. Jake Wall and Abigael Pertet visited a renowned wildlife researcher Joseph Ogutu to discuss the coexistence research design and progress, the new collaboration will improve the research outcome.

Experimental Farm SITREP: *June 2023*

Date Time	Plot ID	Type of crop	Detail
2023_06_12	3-1.2	Eggplant	Elephants went through all plots with eggplant and completely eat each plant growing in there
	11-11.2		
	4-9.1		
	10-5.2		
2023_06_12	3-11.1	Sukuma	All remaining Sukuma were eaten by vervet monkey
2023_06_12	4-2.1	Okra	A few pieces of Okra in this plot were uprooted by elephants, no predation observed
2023_06_12	4-8.1	Managu	All the Managu plots were predated on by elephants
	3-4.1		
	6-12.1		
	8-15.1		
	11-10.1		
2023_06_12	6-2.2	Canola	Elephant eat half of a row of canola plant
	9-12.2		
2023_06_12	6-3.2	Yams	Elephants passed closed to all the yams plots and the stalk where yams are hugging fell
	7-12.1		
	9-6.1		
2023_06_12	7-14.1	Goose Berry	Most of the fruits are ready and vervet monkeys are uprooting the ready fruits
2023_06_12	6-14.2	Thyme	Elephant passed through plot no predation was observed
2023_06_12	9-10.2	Aloe vera	Elephant uprooted a piece of aloe and eat
2023_06_12	S2-1-4.1	Maize/Ditch	All the maize in this block were cleared by elephants

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2023_06_12	S2-1-6.1	Maize/Sunflower/intercrop	Elephants passed through the plot though no predation was observed
2023_06_12	3-3.1	Tea tree	A total of 205kgs of tea tree was cut from the farm and taken to Kutoka Ardhini distillers, for processing, It is found kilometers from the experimental farm
	6-10.1		
	9-5.1		
	9-16.1		
	11-7.1		
2023_06_12	4-11.1	Chili	Ready chili of 3.4kgs was harvested and dried at the farm
2023_06_12	11-14.1	Cabbage	23 Kgs of cabbage were harvested and given to the farm workers
2023_06_26	8-1.1	Onion	18.5kgs of Onion was harvested in the three plots
	8-8.1		
	9-17.1		
2023_06_26	8-5.2	Canola	A total of 1kg seeds of canola were harvested in the two plots
	9-12.2		
2023_06_26	1-12.1	Garlic	A total of 2kgs of garlic was harvested in the five plots
	4-3.1		
	6-11.1		
	8-6.1		
	11-2.1		
2023_06_26	1-7.2	Canola	All replanted after some were eaten by hippos and two plots were harvested
	6-2.2		
	8-5.2		
	9-12.2		
	11-1.2		

Climate Report

Table 2: 1 MEP's Experimental Farm Rainfall Recording June 2023

Date Time	Precipitation	
	Rain gauge 1 (ml)	Rain gauge 2 (200m2)
2023_06_16	4.4	3
2023_06_26	10	8

Tracking Manager Report

Collared elephants Kiambi and Polaris monitored in June.

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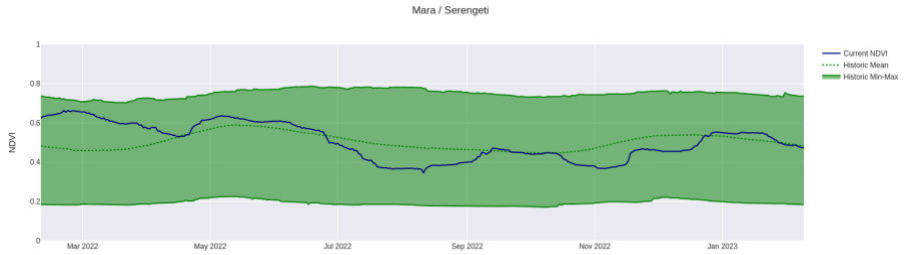
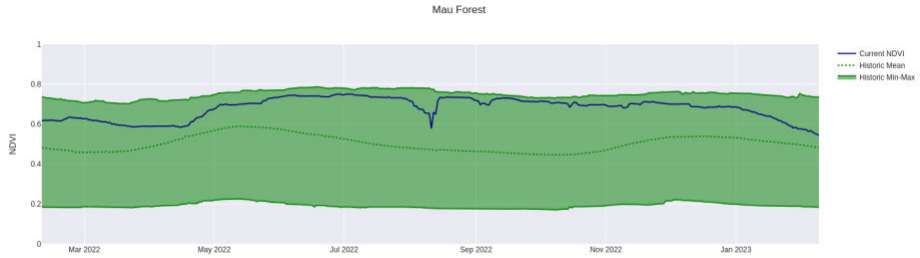
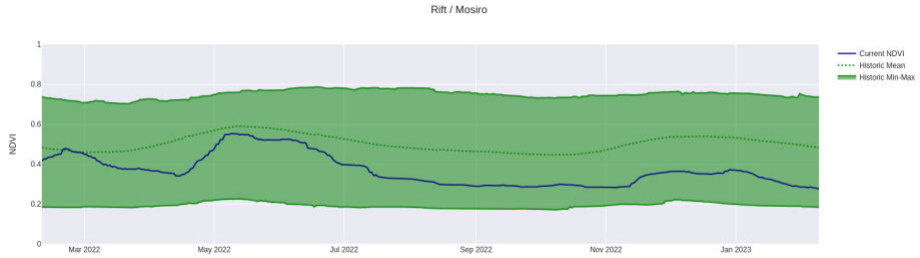
ENVIRONMENT: NDVI



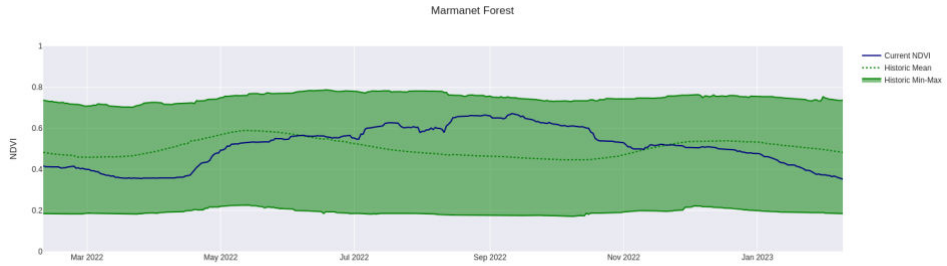
Greater Mara Ecosystem (GME)



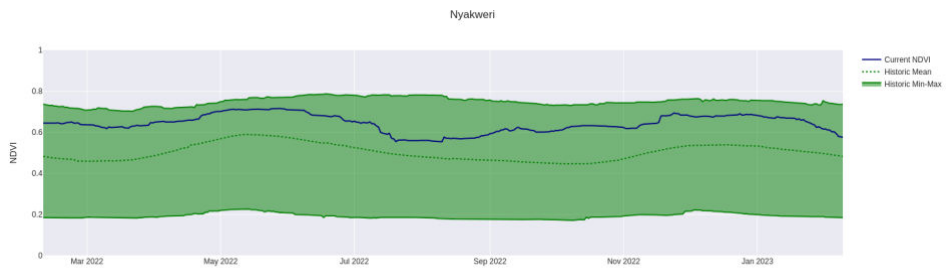
Mau Forest



Rift Valley / Mosiro



Marmanet Forest



Nyakweri Forest

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