

MEP July 2018 Report



A 4th of July baby elephant rescue from the Mara to the DSWT elephant orphanage in Nairobi. Our second pachyderm passenger in the R44 Robinson helicopter.

General:

The Mara is drying up fast, but we have had some intermittent showers at the end of the month. The migration is slowly trickling into Kenya from Tanzania and we're expecting it in the northern portion of the ecosystem slightly later than usual due to the extremely wet season this year.

This month we are proud to report that we collared a female elephant in the southwest portion of the Mau Forest. Bettye, our new elephant, is a female in a herd of five. We now have one elephant on either side of the Mau Forest bottleneck and we are extremely interested in seeing if elephants go through this bottleneck to travel between the eastern and western part of the forest. In the Narok portion of the Mau Forest, near Nkereta, where mountain bongo antelopes (*Tragelaphus Eurycerus Isaaci*) are located, a joint government task force has been evicting squatters inside the forest. While MEP does not get involved with the evictions we support the protection of the forest for this critically endangered species.



Collared elephant "Bettye" in the southwestern Mau Forest.

The MEP intelligence team continues to impress this month with gathering intelligence that led to the arrest of four ivory middlemen and the seizure of 48 kg of ivory. In addition to this accomplishment, the intelligence team has also employed three new intelligence gathering sources in Tanzania.

The second quarter MIKE harmonization meeting took place on the 23rd in Narok. The data indicated 10 total elephant deaths with two due to human-elephant conflict, two from poaching, four of natural causes and two from unknown causes.

On the 20th MEP was delighted to host the MEP Trustees quarterly meeting in Nairobi. The meeting went very well with several key decisions being voted on and two new potential trustees identified that would be a good fit for new members.

This month we traded in two old vehicles and used that money to help purchase two new Land Cruisers. One of the vehicles we traded in was originally donated by The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) and their contribution to the new vehicle will be reflected on the new vehicle's signage.

Communications:

On July 31, MEP celebrated World Ranger Day with two blogs: one highlighting the successes MEP rangers have had in the first half of 2018 and the other was a direct appeal for funding ranger equipment and training. We tied in our Amazon Wish List, which has a well cultivated list of ranger items they need in the field and we promoted both of the Facebook posts for World Ranger Day for July 30 – August 1. We are so honored and privileged to work with our 38 rangers on a daily basis and are glad the world stops to recognize them on World Ranger Day.



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MEP has sent the Executive Director of The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) a press release that can be used in their communications to highlight the amazing work the DSWT-funded Mau De-Snaring Team is carrying out to protect the Mau Forest and its wildlife. They will be using this information as part of a series of social media posts championing the work of rangers. Additionally, DSWT has officially introduced the Mau Team to their supporters on their highly visited website [DSWT Mau Team](#). We are beyond thrilled to be included on any communications that the DSWT sends out to its informed and passionate supporter base.

MEP's core funder, the ESCAPE Foundation, funded a film called [MABINGWA](#) that has been heavily featured around Kenya; however, it received stateside recognition as a contender in the Heartland Film Festival Shorts competition in Indianapolis, IN. It showed twice during the festival to a sold-out auditorium and both the filmmaker Matt Mays and Executive Producer and MEP Trustee Trey Fehsenfeld were there to answer the many audience questions about the film.

Ker & Downey, an African luxury travel company, is including the MEP Visitor Experience in their fall edition of Quest Magazine. Speaking of the visitor experience, we've had some wonderful visits from camps this month including Richard's Camp, Naibosho Camp and Angama Mara.

Finally, MEP sent out our second quarter newsletter on Friday, July 27 to our email list and received a great response from supporters and partners alike.

Fundraising:

Late last year MEP received a grant from TUSK Trust of \$50,000 in support of our work. We submitted our interim report this month and are happy to say that the money has been used to re-collar Caroline and Kegol as well as purchase two motorbikes that have allowed MEP rangers to map fences in the ecosystem to help MEP create virtual geo-fences, which helps with human-elephant conflict mitigation. The funding will also be used to run a chili fence workshop after the short rains in November and building 15 km of chili fences. Grants like this one from TUSK make a difference and allow MEP to protect elephants and the communities that live alongside them.

We had two amazing Facebook followers run fundraisers for MEP in July. Thank you to Ashley and Alex for supporting MEP and raising \$325 for our organization!

Partnership Development:

We had a very exciting visit from the founder of [Elephant Cooperation](#) Scott Struthers. This organization is based in California, USA and has a very similar objective to MEP's core funder, the ESCAPE Foundation. They invest in project's like MEP all around Kenya and beyond and are devoted to raising awareness about the African elephant crisis. MEP CEO Marc Goss hosted Scott and we are excited about a potential partnership. They also said some nice things about us on social media, which is always wonderful after a visit.



MEP CEO Marc Goss with Elephant Cooperation CEO Scott Struthers.

Endangered Species Chocolate is an Indianapolis, IN-based fair-trade chocolate company that donates 10% of its proceeds to many deserving conservation charities around the world. Mara Elephant Project had a good meeting with their head of marketing and as the company is heading in a new direction with their marketing material there are more potential partnership opportunities for our two organizations in 2019 that we're excited to explore.

Research:

We submitted all the tracking data for the Mau Forest collared elephants to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) at the beginning of the month in response to a request from them to put together a position paper for supporting the increased protection work needed in the Mau to stop the illegal logging and poaching. This is an excellent example of how collared elephants are unknowingly providing a case for support to government for habitat and direct protection.

Tracking:

All veterinarian interventions that are considered non-emergencies have been put on hold by the KWS until further notice. This is in response to a terrible incident involving the death of 10 rhinos after they were translocated from Nairobi and Nakuru National Parks to Tsavo



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National Park this month. This decree also means that MEP has to put all elephant collaring operations on hold until further notice.

Security:

In response to the deadly gun attack on a bar in Soit last month that resulted in the death of two people, one of which was a KWS ranger, a concerted effort by the General Service Unit, Narok County Government, and the KWS has resulted in the recovery of 50 illegal firearms in the Transmara.

Incidents Situation Report:

Incidents SitRep:

Dead elephant on: 1/07/2018	Carcass was found in the Mara North Conservancy (MNC) area extended part of Olemoncho; the carcass was reported by MNC rangers to MEP and KWS rangers. The cause of death considered as natural, Mike file number 27/18.
Dead elephant on: 04/07/2018	Female elephant was found dead in Olkinyei Conservancy; the carcass was reported by Olkinyei Conservancy rangers to KWS rangers and to MEP. The cause of death considered as natural. The female elephant's baby was taken to Nairobi to the DSWT orphanage. Mike file number 28/18.
Ivory recovered and arrest: 12/07/18	One suspect arrested in Kilgoris by KWS rangers based on MEP intelligence, in possession of 11 kg of ivory. Suspect taken to Kilgoris police station and booked.
Ivory recovered and arrest: 16/07/18	Three suspects arrested in Narok Ewuaso Ngirio junction by KWS rangers based on MEP intelligence, in possession of 37 kg of ivory. Suspects taken to Narok police station and booked.
Dead elephant on: 20/07/2018	Carcass was found in Inkineji outside Olaro Conservancy; the carcass was reported by the local community to MEP and KWS rangers. The cause of death considered as natural, Mike file number 28/18.
Bush meat recovered and arrest: 24/07/2018	Two suspects were arrested at Emitik by DSWT Mau Team in possession of seven illegal timber logs. Later, the Bondet team arrested two suspects with bush meat. Suspects taken to Olenkuruone police station and booked.
Bush meat recovered and arrest: 24/07/2018	Two suspects were arrested at Maji Moto by KWS in possession of zebra meat. When the suspects were found they had already killed four zebra. Suspects taken to Narok police station and booked.

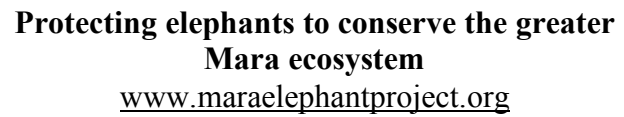
Patrol Details:

Rangers patrol report	Kawai/Partakila	Oloisukut	Munyas	Enkutoto	Mau team	Intel team	Ollaro	
Hours on patrol per month	201	170	211	213	234	68	187	1284
Distance walked per month (Foot)	233	177	203	216	187	153	223	1392
NO.of target points visited per month	20	22	23	23	27	7	18	140
No.of elephants sighted per month	33	23	206	233	18	13	350	876
Days of WILD data submitted	23	24	26	24	25	14	26	162
Days of WILD data Missing	8	7	5	7	6	17	5	55
No.of qualities photos submitted	14	17	22	18	21	9	33	134
No.of incident per month	4	4	18	11	2	4	2	45
HEC	2	2	10	6	0	0	1	21

POACHING	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
ANIMAL MORTALITY	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
PROPERTY DESTRUCTION	2	2	8	4	0	0	0	16
ILLEGAL HUMAN ACTIVITIES	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
No.of poachers caught per month	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	7
No. of snares recovered per month	0	0	0	0	105	0	0	105
All issued equipment present	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Condition of equipent	Uniform and daypack Required.	Uniform and daypack Required.	Uniform and daypack Required.	Uniform and daypack Required.	Good	Good	Uniform and daypack Required.	0
Distance covered by vehicle			889		2050	1584	1812	6335
Distance covered by motorbike	1870	3312	0	2210		2510	1653	11555
Vehicle breakages during the month			KCA 640Z.Good condition	KCR 573 A.NEW car	KCP 123 R good conditio	KCM 122A.Good condition	KCB 033Y.Good condition	
Motorbike breakages during the month		KMEH 975V.Good condition		KMDN 034W .good condition		KMEK 894G.good condition	KMDN 052W Good condition.	



Suspects arrested between Ewaso Ngiro and Lulunga near Narok Town.



MEP rangers heatmap July 2018



MEP rangers patrol tracks July 2018



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Human Wildlife Conflict:

This month we experienced human-elephant conflict in the Enkutoto area where collared elephant Polaris has broken into the same farm a dozen times. Despite our best efforts with the warning beacons, firecrackers, lights and helicopter he continues to come back to the same area with three other bulls to crop raid. We will continue to chase him out of farms daily and experiment with methods to chase him away. Our next efforts will be to use a spray backpack to spray a chili solution around farms exterior in hopes that deters him.

HEC Situation Report:

No.	DATE	REGION	Damage	Crop	Action operation details	Mitigation action
1	6/27/18	Munyas	Fence	Maize	Remove from farm	car & firecrackers
2	7/2/18	Munyas	Fence	maize	Remove from farm	firecrackers, lights,car,fire
3	7/2/18	Ekutoto	none	Maize	Remove from farm	firecrackers, lights,fire and drum
4	7/3/18	Oloisukut	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	Motobike & firecrackers
5	7/3/18	Kawai	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	car,drums,lights and firecrackers
6	7/3/18	Enkutoto	None	None	Remove from settlement	firecrackers, lights,motorbikes,fire and drum
7	7/3/18	Munyas	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	firecrackers, lights,motorbikes,fire and drum
8	7/5/18	Munyas	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	car ,firecrackers, lights,motorbikes,fire and drum
9	7/6/18	Ekutoto	Fence	None	Remove from fenced area	car & firecrackers
10	7/6/18	Lemek	None	Maize	Stop from entering farm	Motobike & firecrackers
11	7/7/18	Munyas	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	firecrackers, lights,motorbikes,fire and drum
12	7/8/18	munyas	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	car& firecrackers
13	7/10/18	Enkutoto	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	firecrackers, lights,fire and motorbike
14	7/12/18	Enkutoto	None	Maize	Remove from farm	Motobike & firecrackers
15	7/14/18	Munyas	None	None	Remove from farm	car & firecrackers
16	7/15/18	Oloisukut	Fence	None	Remove from farm	Motobike & firecrackers
17	7/16/18	Kawai	fence	none	Remove from fenced area	Motobike & firecrackers
18	7/17/18	Munyas	Fence	None	Remove from fenced area	Helicopter and firecrackers
19	7/18/18	Munyas	fence	Maize	Remove from fenced area	Helicopter and firecrackers
20	7/19/18	Lemek	none	none	Remove from farm	Motobike & firecrackers
21	7/20/18	munyas	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	Motobike & firecrackers
22	6/21/18	Olaro	none	none	Remove from farm	car,drums,lights and firecrackers
23	7/22/18	Enkutoto	fence	Maize	Remove from fenced area	Motobike & firecrackers
24	7/25/18	Ngosuani	None	None	Stop from entering farm	Helicopter and firecrackers
25	7/26/18	Enkutoto	fence	Maize	Remove from fenced area	Motobike & firecrackers

Poaching:

The DSWT Mau Team was split up to cover more ground in the forest and is now deployed in both the Kericho area and the Emitik area. They recovered a total of 71 snares in July and we're happy to report that there has been no poaching of elephants this month in the region.

Helicopter:

The helicopter was instrumental in collaring Bettye on the 12th in the southwestern Mau Forest. MEP needs to make the down payment on a new machine soon to get a production slot at Robinson Helicopters. On the 4th of July the helicopter was in operation 7 hours total on just that day to respond to an incident in Kericho in the Mau Forest and transport a baby elephant rescued from Mara to the DSWT orphanage in Nairobi. This piece of equipment is vital to our organization.



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Date	Time	Mission	Allocation
01/07/2018	0.5	Check dead elephant in near Olemoncho and Police Meeting	MEP
03/07/2018	3	Collect KWS vet in Nairobi and elephant treatment Ollaro	MEP
04/07/2018	7	Kericho Collaring attempt and baby elephant rescue	MEP
05/07/2018	1	Getting ID photos of Hangzhou	MEP
06/07/2018	0.5	Drop Brett from Expert Drones at Serena	MEP
07/07/2018	2.5	Mau Survey with KWS, KFS, and Police	MEP
09/07/2018	1.5	Looking for collaring candidate in Southwestern Mau	MEP
12/07/2018	3.5	Collaring Bettye in Mau	MEP
13/07/2018	2	Photoshoot with DSWT in Mau	MEP
14/07/2018	1	Checking crops in Transmara	MEP
16/07/2018	2	Nairobi Return for Seiya Handover with MEP team	MEP
17/07/2018	0	Mau Kericho Retrun Mara drop Trey	MEP
19/07/2018	2	Mau Kericho Retrun Mara collect Trey	MEP
21/07/2018	1	HEC in Neyland Farm	MEP
27/07/2018	2	HEC Olchoda in Lemek	MEP
28/07/2018	1	Loita to Rob Omeara Camp in advance of RRT	MEP
30/07/2018	1	Looking for Amare in Loita and her herd return MEP	MEP

31.5

Staff:

A MEP intelligence ranger was awarded the Paradise International Foundation's inaugural African Ranger Award for 2018. The award is given to 50 rangers from across Africa who have excelled. The ranger won a prize of \$3,000 and earned an invitation to attend the award ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa in August. MEP is not only sending the intelligence ranger but also the CEO and tracking manager to Cape Town in August. We are excited to visit South Africa to celebrate this great acknowledgement of our intelligence ranger's work.