



Protect, Conserve, Inspire
www.maraelephantproject.org

Mara Elephant Project Annual Report 2016



Senior Warden for Narok County Mr. Collins Omondi briefs MEP and KWS rangers on the follow-up operation after collared elephant Bobo is killed.

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Message from Board Chairman Brian Heath:

The Mara Elephant Project (MEP) continues to strengthen its position as the most important organization dealing with elephant conservation in Narok County, Kenya.

Though the ESCAPE Foundation remains our primary donor, we continue to receive support from other impactful organizations. USAID's PREPARED Project was a critical part of our success in 2016 as was the Iris O'Brien Foundation that provided considerable support in improving governance, developing a Strategic Plan and a fundraising strategy for MEP. The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust donated a crucial response vehicle to help with operations and their support of the Mara veterinary team is invaluable in collaring elephants and treating injured animals. Tracks Trust generously allows MEP to use their land and facilities in the Mara for MEP HQ and Save the Elephants continues to offer support and collars for monitoring elephants in the Mara. MEP has rangers from The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Narok County Government embedded with our teams, which improve MEP's effectiveness and ensures collaboration and transparency with other wildlife protection organizations. There is an exciting new partnership on the horizon for MEP with Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) that allow us to work together tracking collared elephants that move into the Serengeti and has trained 27 rangers in the use of drones.

Organizations aren't the only ones making an impact at MEP. We also received funding from individuals; Margret McCormick, Rita Casabases and Sue Anschutz-Rogers for helicopter operations that, thanks to Karsten Ree's generosity, MEP is allowed to use on a daily basis to rapidly respond to human-elephant conflict situations, treat wounded elephants and monitor collared elephants. Karen Lo donated \$300,000 to the Mara North Conservancy (MNC) for critical land management activities. Finally, we must thank the Fehsenfeld family for their continued vision and support of MEP. MEP thanks these organizations and individuals for their kind support and continued partnerships.

This past year MEP's organizational focus was on good governance and sustainability. The board received governance training from Kelly Bottone of Frameworks for Change and employed Victoria Fanthorpe as our new Development Director to increase our fundraising efforts. The board added two new members, Moses Kamau and Beatrice Karanja, who respectively add much needed legal and communications expertise. We thank Frank Pope from Save The Elephants for his time spent on the MEP Board and wish him well. Looking forward to 2017, MEP will continue with the progress made on governance and fundraising that contributes toward making MEP an independent organization.

The MEP team's continued dedication to conservation in the Mara is the backbone of our success. The elephant situation in Narok County is dynamic and while MEP's main focus has shifted from anti-poaching to human-elephant conflict we continue to have successful arrest numbers as well as ivory and firearm seizures. Though 12 elephants and three people were killed in 2016, undoubtedly numerous human and elephant lives were saved due to MEP's efforts.

Well done everyone!

Message from CEO Marc Goss:

I am pleased to report that in the greater Mara ecosystem poaching has decreased in the last 12 months. The crack down on wildlife crimes is largely due to the interagency cooperation between MEP, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Narok County Government (NCG), Kenya police, the community conservancies, and communities living in the region. MEP continues to play a key role in keeping elephants safe in the portion of the ecosystem located in Kenya.

One of the key metrics of success for MEP is the Monitoring of Illegally Killing of Elephants (MIKE) and the Percentage of Illegally Killed elephants (PIKE). Our target is to decrease the PIKE level to below 50% in 2017. MEP and partners have decreased PIKE to 50% in 2016 or 1 year earlier than expected. All agencies working to stop poaching and especially MEP can be proud of this decrease in illegal elephant deaths.

Through the collection of human-elephant conflict (HEC) data and the MIKE data we can report that conflict, and conflict related elephant deaths as a proportion of total deaths, has increased. In 2016 MEP adapted to react to this increase in conflict incidents. In 2015 we reacted to 35 conflict incidents and in 2016 we reacted to a total of 91 across an area of 3,700Km². The increase in conflict continues to escalate especially during the dry months. The ability to successfully mitigate conflict was greatly increased with the helicopter Karen Blixen Camp and Ree Park Safari has provided for MEP operations.

This year, through a partnership with World Wildlife Fund, MEP increased the number of elephants we track from 13 to 21. The additional collared elephants are monitored by field teams and remotely via the Save the Elephants tracking system. MEP has developed a systematic response to collared elephants in Kenya, which has been working well to respond to human-elephant conflict with alerts for streaks and immobility. We plan to extend our collaring, tracking and response abilities to the Loita Hills with partners in 2017. Very little is known about elephants in this area. Poaching is still an issue in the Loita area and MEP's extension into this area will address the poaching issue. MEP also plans to extend our program into the Serengeti with partners. Several of our collared elephants have been in the Serengeti and crop-raiding on the western Serengeti boundary. We plan to work closely with NGO's, Community and Government to mitigate conflict outside the park, assist with antipoaching work, and share real-time data with key partners. This potential extension is exciting and will have a positive impact on both the elephants and the communities living around Serengeti.

As an organization MEP has developed in 2016. The MEP Board of Trustees underwent an extensive governance review and recruited two new members to the board that bring a new and exciting expertise to MEP. We've also hired a full-time Development Director in hopes of expanding our fundraising reach in 2017.

I would like to thank all of the MEP staff for their true dedication to elephant conservation and for inspiring me daily. A special thank you and recognition must go to our major funder, Founder Mrs. Suzie Fehsenfeld, for her continued dedication to MEP. Without Suzie MEP would not be a reality.

MEP at a Glance 2016

January	<p>We arrest 4 gangsters with 2 AK 47 Machine guns in Lolgorian who have been terrorizing the community and killed 4 people</p> <p>We train 27 rangers in Tanzania to use drones to mitigate HEC. Trey Fehsenfeld, Marc Goss, Dickson Njapit and Steven Ekeno lead the training</p> <p>Jackson Maitai is awarded Ranger of the Quarter</p> <p>Poaching in Siana breaks out and results in 4 dead elephants. The poachers make away with 3 pairs of tusks</p>
February	<p>We respond to 6 dead elephants in the Mara North Olare Orok area. The cause of death is identified as carbofuran poisoning</p> <p>Collared elephant Lina is among the dead.</p> <p>MEP's air wing suffers a huge blow as pilot Harry Dyer's Supercub is wrecked as a result of a micro bust at MNC airstrip</p> <p>10 KWS rangers are attached to MEP for the first time.</p>
March	<p>We start reacting to HEC with the helicopter which proves very effective.</p> <p>We arrest 1 suspect with ivory and suspect the ivory was from an elephant we found poached in Ngoswani</p> <p>The new MEP website is launched</p> <p>Our intel leads to arrest in Nanyuki of 1 suspect with a piece of rhino horn</p>
April	<p>We train 21 rangers from Pardamat Conservancy and Siana Conservancy</p> <p>Mr. Moses Kamau joins the MEP board and adds much needed legal skills</p> <p>Amos Keshe is awarded Ranger of the Quarter</p> <p>Kenya burns its stockpile of ivory and rhino horn. MEP CEO and MEP founder, Suzie Fehsenfeld, attend the burn together.</p>
May	<p>Zero dead elephants reported (April and May) for the first time in several years.</p> <p>WWF asks us to track their 8 collared elephants</p>
June	<p>We loose collared elephant Bobo to poachers in Ol Choro Conservancy.</p> <p>Suzie Fehsenfeld and her family visit the project we re collar ivy together</p> <p>MEP hosts children from Rekeru School for a game drive and art day at the MEP HQ.</p> <p>1 Maasai herder is killed by elephants while herding in Transmara</p> <p>MEP team complete the half marathon at Lewa wildlife conservancy and runner Joshua Karia completed finished in 50th position out of 1120 runners and the MEP team placed 8th out of 177 teams</p>
July	<p>We receive the first donations for the helicopter hanger from Margret McCormick and donations for flying time from Rita Casabases</p> <p>The fundraising strategy is review and approved by the MEP board.</p> <p>We host community members and elders from the Mosiro area which is east of Narok town. Where collared elephant Santiyan lives.</p> <p>Jackson Koonyi is awarded Ranger of the Quarter</p>
August	<p>Multi agency HEC team formed in Transmara (MNC, Olosukut, MEP, KWS)</p> <p>2 high priority poachers arrested with ivory from the 4 elephants killed in Siana in January</p>
September	<p>2 gang members with 1 AK47 machine gun are arrested.</p> <p>MEP board undergoes a governance review by Frameworks for Change.</p>
October	<p>10 Narok County Government rangers and 1 warden are attached to MEP</p> <p>Victoria Fanthorpe joins MEP as Director for Development to execute the fundraising strategy</p> <p>CEO and Trey Fehsenfeld go to Montana to do a drone demo and raise funding we attend Indianapolis prize for conservation</p> <p>Two people are killed by elephants: a student from Nkineji primary school and a belgium man from Talek.</p> <p>Beatrice Karanja joins the MEP board and adds much needed social and communications skills to MEP</p> <p>The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust communicates that it will donate 1 4X4 vehicle for HEC and antipoaching.</p>
November	<p>Sue Anschutz-Rodgers donates 35,000USD for the helicopter. The single largest donation for the helicopter to date.</p> <p>We respond in to a number of HEC incidents and pull 12 arrows out of an elephant and collar her. The new collared elephant is named Courtney</p> <p>The governance review process is completed with the MEP board and the policies and manual is adopted</p> <p>We start our first aerial monitoring flights of all collared elephants.</p> <p>We collared a big bull in Rekeru who was named Olchoda by the local community.</p>
December	<p>Gideon Ngoitoi is awarded Ranger of the Quarter at our annual Christmas party</p> <p>4 of our collared elephants and 100 other individuals continue to crop raid in the Kirindon area 1 elephant is killed</p> <p>Karsten Ree owner of the helicopter visits MEP</p>

Elephant Security

The three activities, which MEP engages in to improve elephant security, are anti-poaching, response to human-elephant conflict, and monitoring of collared elephants. This year we have both increased our areas of operation and started conducting monthly aerial tracking of all of our collared elephants.



A KWS ranger attached to MEP looks over an elephant carcass while the Karen Blixen Camp Ree Park Safari helicopter ferries more rangers to the site.

Anti-Poaching:

During the year 10 KWS rangers and 10 NCG rangers have been successfully embedded with the MEP anti-poaching teams,, bringing our total to 52 rangers that have been deployed on a daily basis by MEP. The new additions to MEP have meant that we could expand our areas of operation. We continue to rotate all of the rangers between all of our stations in 2-week intervals. In 2016 we arrested 48 people and recovered 68 kilograms of ivory. This is a decrease from 450 kgs. of ivory recovered from arrests in 2015; however, this does not indicate a decrease in effort by MEP, but an overall decrease in ivory in the market which is also reflected in decreased MIKE and PIKE (Percentage of Illegally Killed Elephants) levels.

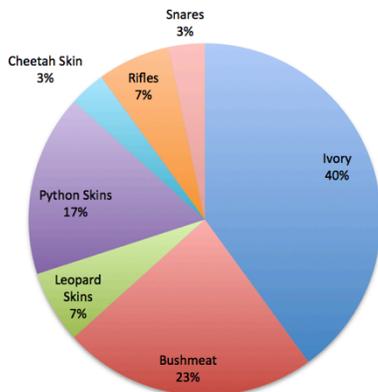
Our intelligence team has significantly broken down the poaching gangs operating in Narok County in Kenya. At the height of the intelligence team's success they were getting several different leads a week about the same ivory caches. This made it almost impossible for dealers and facilitators to move ivory. The successes for arrests and decreases in overall poaching are a product of the close partnership between MEP, KWS, Kenya police, informants, local judges and prosecutors, central government, which increased penalties for wildlife crimes,, and the community.

Partner David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust donated a Land Rover vehicle to MEP in November. Adding this fourth vehicle improves our mobility and ability to respond rapidly to poaching and HEC.

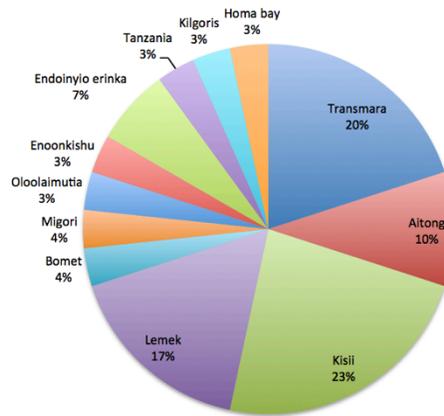


Elephant Bobo photographed by Courtney Fehsenfeld several days before he was killed. The numerous attempts to bring down the large tusker are visible as abscesses, which have healed over.

Recoveries 2016



Specific arrest sites 2016

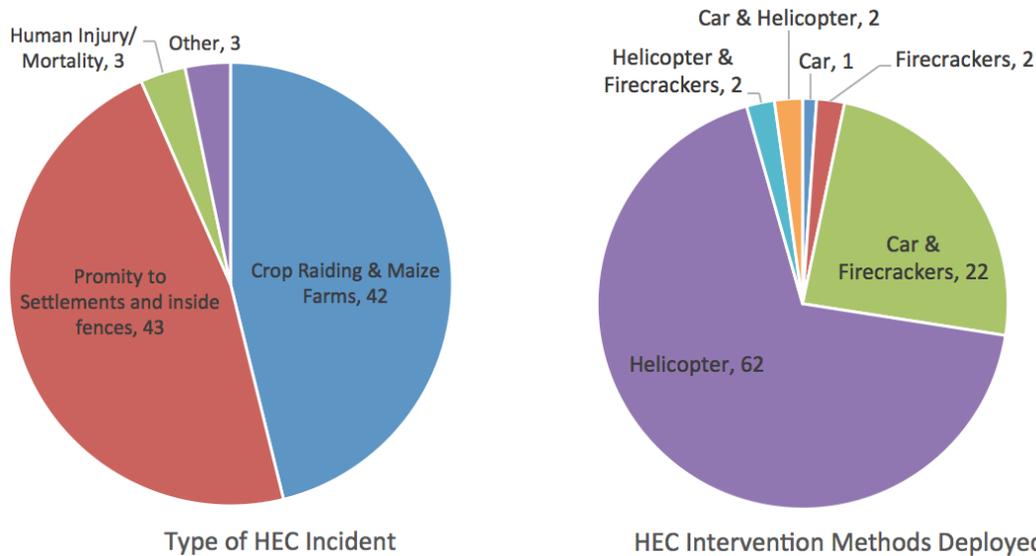


Recoveries chart indicates the specific items we recovered as a percentage. The arrest sites indicate the specific areas where people were arrested.

Mitigating Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC)

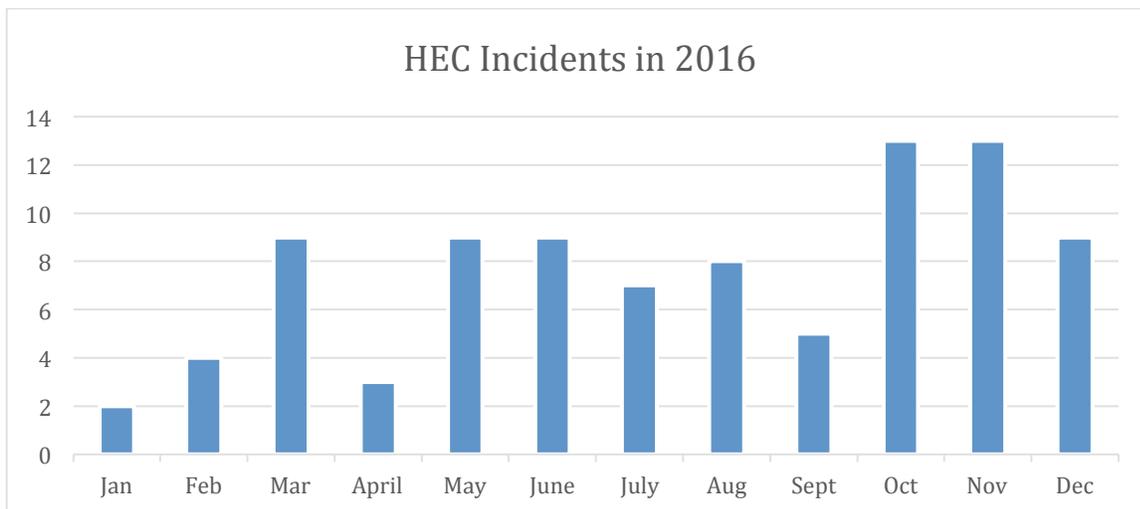
As a result of increased conflict in the Olkinyei and Transmara areas MEP set up two new patrol and HEC teams. In the Transmara we developed a multi-agency team including Mara North Conservancy rangers, Olosukut Conservancy, KWS, and NCG. In the Olkinyei area we set up a new MEP, NCG and KWS team in the Olderikesi area. These teams are reacting to conflict on a daily basis and have been the first responders to conflict in these areas. HEC is on the rise and MEP is using new and innovative methods

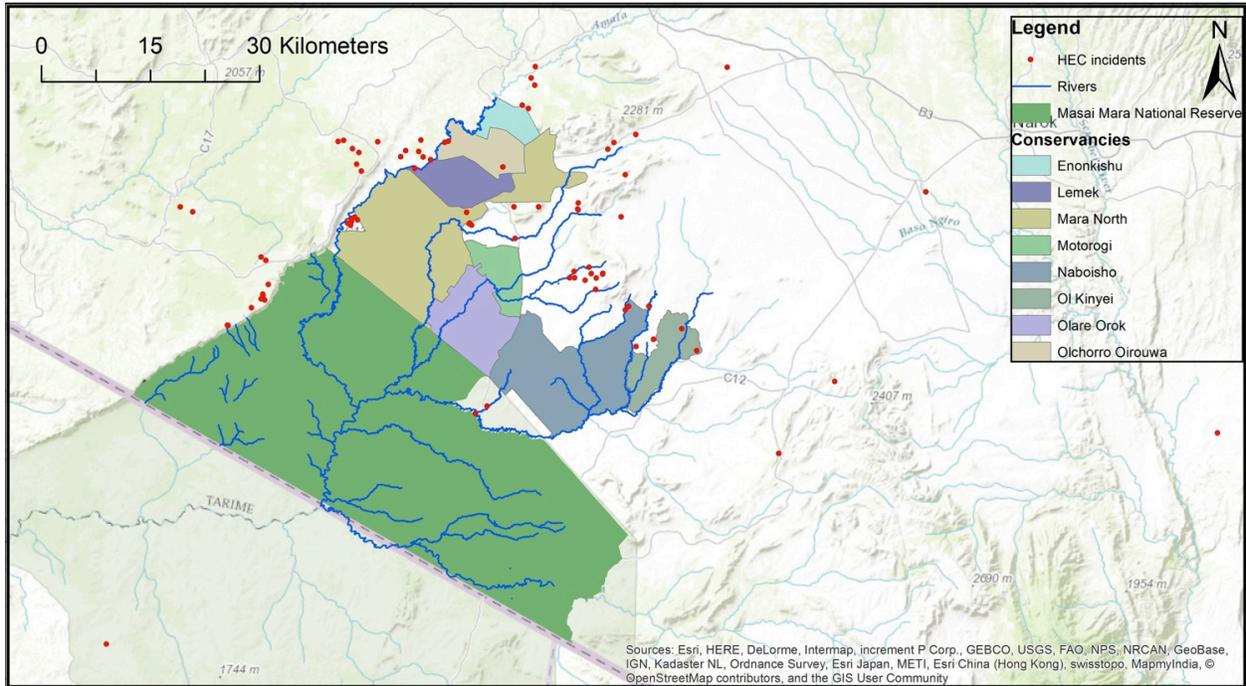
that help us be a first responder in an area of over 3,700Km².. In 2016 we mapped all the HEC sites and there are clear hotspots.



The charts above illustrate the type of conflict and also the mitigation tools used.

Although the conventional conflict has been elephants in farms, rapid fencing of traditional elephant areas, has changed much of the conflict to elephants that are stuck in settlement areas. It is also interesting to note that the Karen Blixen Camp Ree Park Safari helicopter, a tool, which could be subsidized by drones at a fraction of the cost, has mitigated the majority of the HEC incidents MEP responded to in 2016.





Above map illustrating the 91 cases of HEC MEP responded to in 2016

Tracking Elephants

In 2016, with access to the helicopter, we started monitoring all of the 21 collared elephants by air across the Mara ecosystem including in the Serengeti. Traditionally, MEP tracked the collared elephants on the ground and remotely primarily as an anti-poaching and HEC tool. In addition to this, we are now seeking to understand more about the herd dynamics. Our partner, Save the Elephants, developed an aerial tracking protocol, which MEP now uses during all tracking flights. This monthly aerial monitoring exercise gives MEP important insight into the number of elephants the collars are representing, the herd structures and proximity to water, settlements and livestock. MEP also checks to see if any elephants have been wounded. Currently, the collared elephants represent between 500 and 600 individuals.



WWF collared elephant, Santiyan, and her herd in the Suswa area. This photograph was taken during one of MEP's routine aerial patrol flights.



MEP and KWS rangers track a collared elephant in the Ol Donyo Erinka area.

Collaring

In 2016 WWF and MEP developed a partnership whereby a further eight elephants were fitted with tracking collars with a focus on female elephants in the eastern area of the ecosystem. The farthest elephant from MEP HQ is Santiyan, an elephant who lives in the Mosiro area near Mt. Suswa. Sometimes she moves as close as 25 km from Nairobi city limits. The collaring and monitoring partnership with WWF has greatly expanded the range MEP has to cover to monitor all of the collared elephants.

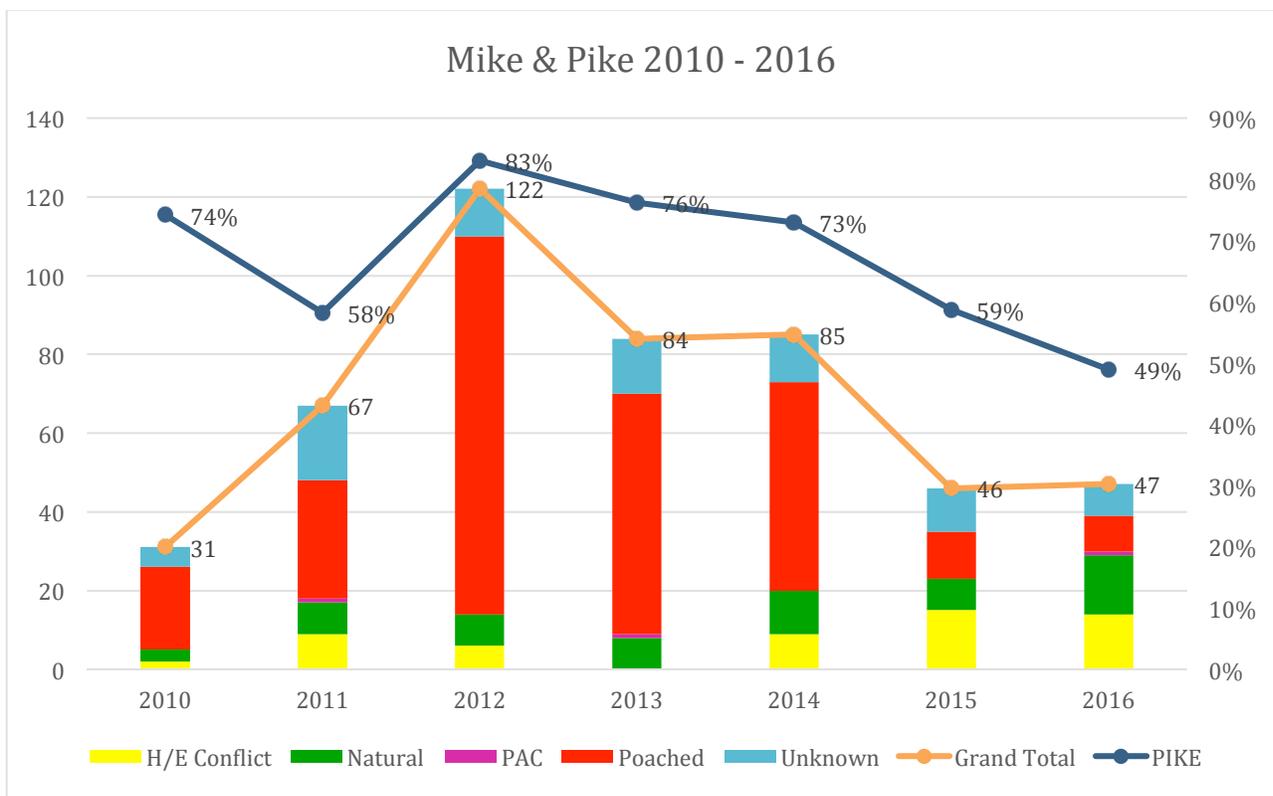


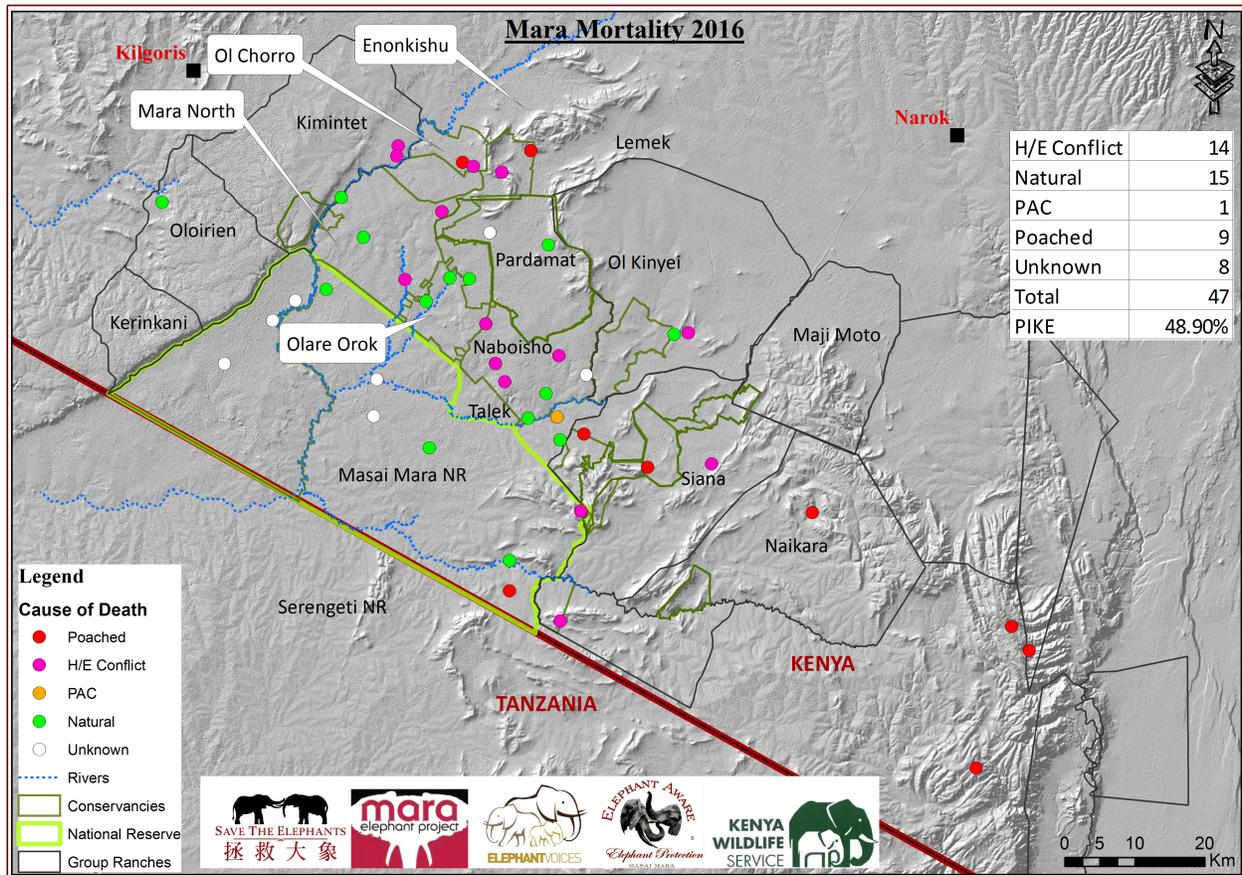
Collaring Olchoda: Dr Limo from the KWS administers the antidote.

In 2016, MEP collared a known conflict elephant in the Rekerro area and named the bull, “Olchoda” which translates to “the disturber” in the local Maa language. The second animal collared was a female elephant – Courtney -- who we pulled 12 arrows out of and since her collaring she has not moved back into conflict areas. We also replaced Bobo and Ivy’s collar in 2016 due to a low battery.

MIKE Data

MEP continues to collect and analyze Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) data in the greater Mara ecosystem. We are proud to report that the Percentage of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) decreased from 59% in 2015 to 49% in 2016. The total number of dead elephants increased from 46 in 2015 to 47 in 2016. Out of all of the elephants that died in 2016 five sets of tusks were taken by poachers. MEP had set a target of 50% pike in 2017 this means that MEP has achieved the target earlier than expected. The upward trend starting in 2016 can be attributed to increased conflict.





Map of elephant mortalities in 2016.

Developing the Evidence Base

GPS tracking data collected by MEP is stored in a state-of-the-art cloud database system being jointly developed by our primary partner - Save the Elephants (STE) - and Vulcan Inc based in Seattle, Washington. Called the *Domain Awareness System* (DAS), the system is designed to facilitate the joint analysis and visualization of multiple tracking data sources in relation to relevant operational data (e.g., poaching events) and landscape spatial variables (e.g., conservancy boundaries).

All managers and officers at MEP have now been equipped with iPhones and the STE Tracking App for iOS – a specialized and secure platform for visualizing real time elephant movement within the Mara-DAS. The app also quickly highlights streaks, day and night movements and has a comprehensive base map. Managers can now easily relay coordinates to field teams and track the elephants on the ground and by air.

The Mara-DAS system was also recently expanded to include Spydertracks data from the MEP 5Y-REE helicopter. Helicopter movement data can now be analyzed to quantify aerial patrol effort and patrol distribution to better understand the effect of the MEP helicopter as a tool in

human-elephant conflict mitigation. We hope to further integrate movement data from both individually tracked patrol teams and patrol vehicles for similar purposes.

The Mara-DAS system has incorporated STE's Standard Analytical Reporting Framework (SARF) tool to quickly generate quarterly outputs on elephant movement, range density hotspots, corridors and streak events and range expansion into new areas. These outputs are included in MEP quarterly reports.

MEP is also currently working on scientifically analyzing the nearly 700,000 recorded GPS positions that have been collected from 40 elephants tracked in the Masai Mara since December 2011. These data are a valuable contribution to our understanding of the movements of the elephants within the greater Mara ecosystem and establish a baseline of movement patterns on which we can also monitor changes over time. Concomitantly, we are collecting information about the set of factors believed to influence elephant movement, such as vegetation, terrain, water availability and the level of human presence as observed by road and settlement densities, so that we can analyze movement in relation to these covariates. Our study, led by Dr. Jake Wall (STE & MEP Science Board member), will help to answer questions about the why, where and when of Mara elephant spatial behavior.

Sustainable Development:

Communicating on the Radio:

MEP has investigated making radio announcements with Mayian FM that has the potential to reach 800,000 daily listeners. The messages would advertise MEP's hotline for rapid response to conflict and poaching reports, tips on how to mitigate conflict at the grassroots level and dates of HEC training courses MEP offers. Funding proposals have been submitted to support this initiative and we hope to see the radio announcements commence in 2017.

County Spatial Planning:

WWF has taken the lead with the Narok County Government for spatial planning with the establishment of a GIS lab and funding for a spatial planning consultant. This development, although slow to get off the ground, has significant potential in terms of securing critical habitat for conservation and the rangeland of elephants and we plan to contribute our conflict and movement analysis to this process.

School Development Projects:

MEP has started working directly with two schools, Rekeru Primary School and Ngoswani Primary School, in our area of operation. At Ngoswani Primary School elephants have been disturbing students on a daily basis. In partnership with the school council and local parents, MEP has built an elephant-proof fence around the 50 acre school property and in 2017 we will be planting and managing 4,500 trees to create a woodlot for the school. By providing a sustainable supply of harvestable wood for the school to use, the woodlot will protect the trees outside of the school that are currently being used for firewood and help prevent deforestation and habitat loss in the surrounding area. The trees will also provide shade for the children, thereby improving the school environment. MEP engages in many community development projects with partners like the Maa Trust that have an excellent community

program record and continues to support wildlife clubs in four schools to enable children to learn about wildlife and conservation issues.

Communications Strategy:

Our newest board member, Beatrice Karanja, who has many years' experience in both conservation and communications, is currently developing MEP's Communications Strategy. Once completed we will begin implementing the strategy in 2017.

ESCAPE and Well Told Story:

The key to the future of the conservation of elephants, other wildlife and their habitat are the Kenyan youth to develop the next generation of conservation leaders and champions. Currently, little is understood about their current attitudes toward wildlife and how best to influence their behavior. We are pleased to be partnering with ESCAPE Foundation, which commissioned research by Well Told Story aimed at better understanding youth attitudes towards wildlife and conservation. We will use these findings, expected by the end of the first quarter of 2017, to inform both our communications strategy and the activities we undertake with local youth through our wildlife clubs, school-based activities, blog posts and radio advertisements.

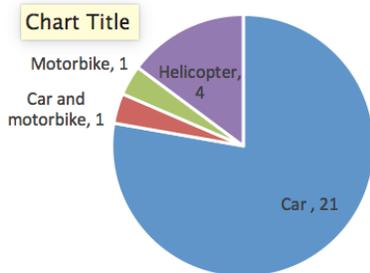
Conservancy Support

MEP is managing a donation to the Mara North Conservancy to improve the conservancy and ensure it is a safe and bountiful place for elephants even through the dry periods. Mara North Conservancy is a community owned conservancy with 800 Maasai landlords and 12 tourism partners. The MNC grant has been awarded to improve infrastructure inside the conservancy, purchase vehicles and motorbikes, build ranger stations, start a transparent revenue collection system and better police the conservancy from illegal grazing. This project both improves the ability for MNC to manage their area, but also builds support for MEP and elephant conservation in the eyes of the community.

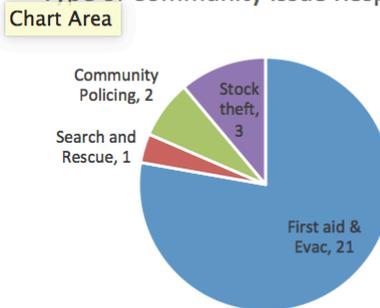
Community Response:

MEP deploys well-trained rangers over a large area and as such we react to a number of community related calls for assistance. This is mostly for medical transport and first-aid. The MEP patrol Medics have been busy in the community helping injured or sick people in remote areas.

Means used to address Community Issue



Type of Community Issue Responded to



MEP responds to 28 community incidents in 2016. The majority of means of responding to community incidents has been using one of MEP's vehicles. The majority of issues responded to was providing first aid and evacuating people to hospital.

Organizational Development

The MEP Board has grown to include new members Beatrice Karanja and Moses Kamau. Moses is the owner of a reputable law firm in Nairobi and has board experience with civic education and media advocacy for the Kenya Constitution working on fair-trade projects and overseeing penal reform. In addition to his legal expertise, Moses adds great passion and knowledge of NGOs to the governance of MEP. Beatrice is a strategic communications specialist with over 20 years of experience as a communications development professional covering the African continent with extensive experience in East, Central and Southern Africa and working with conservation organizations. Beatrice believes that conservation and development can co-exist and is keen to play her part to make sure Kenya's future is sustainable, balanced and wise.

MEP completed the review of the 3-Year Strategy Plan and the board adopted it in December. Changes to the direction of the organization include: adapting to increasing human-elephant conflict and decreasing poaching, seconding law enforcement personnel instead of increasing MEP staff, and the addition of community development projects.

Victoria Fanthorpe joined MEP in October as Development Director and brings a plethora of fundraising and community development experience to MEP. Our thanks to the Iris O'Brien Foundation for their support to develop our Fundraising Strategy and initial funding for Victoria's position.

Staff Development

- MEP vehicle drivers all attended a 3-day off road driving course offered by Glen Edmonds Limited. All the drivers passed the course and we developed Standard Operating Procedures for all drivers to ensure vehicles are being driven and serviced correctly.
- Wilson Sairowua was promoted from Administrator to MEP Tracking Manager and attended a 4-day workshop in Amboseli National Park on innovating tools to mitigate HEC. The workshop was useful to learn about new tools to mitigate HEC and also which tools were most effective.
- Private Joshua Karia attended Moran Driving School in Narok and passed. He was promoted to a driver.
- MEP Patrol Medic John Leshan attended a 2-day snakebite training course in Watamu on the Kenya coast hosted by BioKen, the leading snakebite authority in Kenya.
- John Panda was promoted from sergeant to deputy warden. Simintei Nchoe was promoted from private to corporal.

Governance:

Kelly Bottone from Frameworks of Change undertook a comprehensive review of the governance of MEP and trained the MEP Kenya Board of Trustees on good governance. Kelly made two trips to Kenya and met with all board members individually to understand the board and where it could be improved. This was followed by a presentation to the whole board on governance and the roles and responsibilities of a good board member. On Kelly's second trip she presented a full set of revised policies for discussion. The policy and governance manual was adopted by the board in December 2016 and the process of implementing the necessary changes will continue through 2017. Our thanks to the Iris O'Brien

Foundation that has generously provided the funding for this important exercise in developing the capacity of MEP.

Board Structure:

New Trustees: Beatrice Karanja, Moses Kamau

Members Stepping Down: Frank Pope

Chairman: Brian Heath

Vice Chairman: Moses Kamau

Secretary: Hilary Hurt

Treasurer: Marc Goss

Committees:

Audit and Risk: Marc Goss, Richard Roberts, Brian Heath, and Brian Kearney-Grieve (special advisor)

Fundraising and Communications: Beatrice Karanja, Hilary Hurt, Trey Fehsenfeld, Victoria Fanthorpe, and Richard Roberts

Governance: Moses Kamau, Colin Church

Management:

Marc Goss: CEO

Victoria Fanthorpe: Development Director

Wilson Sairowua: Tracking Manager

Ekiru: Senior Warden

Operational Plan and Budget for 2017

The operational plan and budget for 2017 was submitted by the CEO to the board for review and adoption in December. The main activities to implement have been increased to include more activities related to mitigating HEC, deployment in new areas, increased communication, and community development projects.

Funding and Finances

The continued functioning of MEP and its success is totally dependent upon our generous supporters and funders. Key among these is our Founder Suzie Fehsenfeld and the ESCAPE Foundation whose on-going commitment and generosity continues to secure the core operations of MEP. We are also thankful to our other funders and supporters who continue to provide us with much needed funding and in-kind support and are listed below:

- USAID-PREPARED
- Iris O'Brien Foundation
- Karen Blixen Camp
- JS Fehsenfeld Family Foundation
- Trey Fehsenfeld
- Gifford Family Foundation
- Sue Anschutz-Rodgers.
- Margaret McCormick and the Bessemer Family Trust
- Tusk Trust
- Save the Elephants and Elephant Crisis Fund

MEP was able to reach a larger audience of individual funders in 2016 with the addition of our new website and Facebook page. A special thanks to all those that have supported MEP by making donations through Paypal and various MEP Generosity campaigns; your support has been critical to our ability to rapidly respond to incidents in the field by keeping the helicopter flying thus protecting both elephants and local communities.

Financial highlights:

- MEP is managing the donation of 300,000USD for Mara North Conservancy and this funding does not support core MEP operations.
- At the Extraordinary General Meeting MEP formed an Audit and Risk committee to focus on finance of the organization.
- MEP has opened 2 bank accounts, both with USD and KES accounts, to ensure that donations and operating payments are easy to follow.
- Below is an excerpt from the draft audited accounts of the income and expenditure statement. It does not include the value of MEP assets.

To all our funders, we are thankful for their belief in the work of MEP.

INCOME STATEMENT : 31/01/16 - 31/12/16	Total
RESTRICTED DONATIONS	
MNC (Karen Lo)	299,995
HELICOPTER	79,834
COLLARING	39,970
GOVERNANCE and Fundraising (Iris Obrein)	39,975
USAID	39,900
OTHERS (Roads and drone donations)	25,000
UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS	-
ESCAPE FOUNDATION	394,367
INDIVIDUALS	97,762
TOTAL INCOMES	1,016,803
EXPENSES	
ADMINISTRATION COSTS (Seiya and CEO 20% of their time)	66,706
STAFF COSTS	201,955
Communications (vsat and telephone)	4,502
RENT	241
MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIRS & SERVICING	25,950
MOTOR VEHICLE RUNNING COST	21,041
HELICOPTER	30,884
REPAIRS & MAINTAINANCE (helicopter hanger, school project, roads)	36,547
LICENCES & RADIO REPAIRS	347
FIELD OPERATIONS (training, field utilities, rations, intel, chili fences, flashbangs, staff dev)	63,973
RANGER EQUIPMENT	8,955
OFFICE EXPENCES	8,837
PROFESSIONAL FEES (Consultancy fees for fundraising strategy and Audit)	36,602
SECURITY EXPENSES (Informats)	16,933
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS (Support to MNC from Karen Lo funds)	83,272
MEETINGS	947
ELEPHANT COLLARING	6,363
INSURANCE	4,750
TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT	6,194
FINANCE COSTS	645
SUPPLIER(ESSO MOTORS Vehcile payments)	10,475
CASH BALANCE	380,684

Audited accounts will be available for 2016 in June 2017.