

MEP August 2018 Report



Dr. Limo is lifted into the Mara Triangle by helicopter to respond to this baby elephant who had a snare wound around his mouth and head on the 29th. The helicopter was instrumental in separating him from mum and then reuniting them. He is expected to make a full recovery after we removed the snare.

General:

Toward the end of the month we experienced some showers and we hope they will continue into September. These showers will also hopefully result in the migration coming to the northern portion of the Mara. So far, the migration has largely stayed in the southern portion of the Kenyan portion of the ecosystem.

This month MEP has become independent of management company Seiya Limited. Seiya was responsible for handling a number of administrative duties including payroll, statutory deductions and logistics. MEP thanks Seiya for the support provided since inception. MEP has taken the necessary steps to take on this responsibility by hiring a full-time professional accountant and opening a new office in Karen, Nairobi, Kenya.

At the latest MEP Board of Trustees meeting at MEP HQ last month the board voted in Mr. Colin Church as the new chairman of MEP. From all of us at MEP with thank Colin for accepting this position and look forward to working together closely. From the 16th to the 19th we hosted Colin for the chairman's visit and we were able to visit ranger stations, give a detailed update on current projects, and brief him on internal systems. Mr. Brian Heath stepped down as chairman and we would like to officially acknowledge his huge support to MEP over the years. Thank you, Brian.

An outstanding issue which we have not yet resolved is the disappearance of Amare's collar in the Loita Hills area. Her collar stopped reporting from the middle of a rather large pond in



Protecting elephants to conserve the greater
Mara ecosystem

www.maraelephantproject.org

one of the forest clearings. After searching the 5 -foot-deep pond we still have not located the collar. We suspect it fell off when she was inside the pond, but we are not ruling out poaching or a malfunctioning collar. We will continue looking and get to the bottom of this issue.



The pond where Amare's collar location was reading.

Communications:

Mara Elephant Project was delighted to welcome both Reuters and the BBC to MEP to film CEO Marc Goss and MEP operations. Each of these series has the potential to reach thousands of people and will air in early 2019.

In August, MEP celebrated World Elephant Day with an email to supporters and a full social media campaign. This was a great way to connect to a global movement and helped us raise \$600 toward helicopter flying time. Thank you to everyone who donated on Facebook and PayPal to make this a success.

The Indianapolis Prize is taking place on September 29 and MEP is hosting a supporter thank you event the night before on September 28. Invitations for this event went out to MEP supporters across the globe and we're happy to report that many partners including Elephant Cooperation, Space for Giants, the Indianapolis Zoo and others are joining us to celebrate. MEP is proud to present special guests CEO Marc Goss and *Drone Warrior* Brett Velicovich.

Fundraising:

MEP is very pleased to announce that we have been successful in our application to the OAK Foundation who have confirmed core support for the next four years. MEP submitted a grant to the Bently Foundation for ranger equipment support. We also submitted a grant to the International Elephant Foundation in August to support the training and development of MEP rangers. Finally, we have also applied to the first stage of the UK government's Darwin Initiative Round 25 in partnership with the Maa Trust seeking funding over three years to



Protecting elephants to conserve the greater Mara ecosystem

www.maraelephantproject.org

support MEP's community engagement work. We should hear back in December if we will be shortlisted for the second stage of the process.

MEP has been included in Asilia Giving's plans for 2019. Each of their guests donates \$5 per night at Asilia in the Mara, all of which will go to Mara Elephant Project up to \$2,000. MEP hosted visitors from Kicheche Camp, Elephant Pepper Camp and Alex Walker's Serian Camp in August, each giving \$100 to our organization for a total of \$700 raised. We received a donation from the Hubbard Family Foundation and thank you to Anja for raising \$100 for MEP on Facebook. Stephanie is currently raising money on Facebook for MEP to celebrate her birthday. She raised \$230 of her \$200 goal! MEP received over \$1,100 from generous individuals in August via our online donation platform. Thank you to everyone who donated to Mara Elephant Project in August!

Research:

Ryan Wilkie, who was attached to MEP from Save The Elephants, completed his internship at MEP this month. He was an extremely hard-working person who under the guidance of Jake Wall completed the first draft of the Technical Report, Elephant Yearbook, created a number of outputs, and taught Wilson, MEP's tracking manager, to create outputs using ARCGIS. Ryan is off to start his PhD at Edinburgh University and we wish him all the best on this new chapter. We were impressed by Ryan's work ethic and he is always welcome back at MEP.

Tracking:

We continue to fall behind with our collaring and re-collaring program due to the temporary stay instituted by Kenya Wildlife Service on any interventions which are not emergencies. We will continue to look for Amare and her collar in Loita.

Security:

We are seeing an increase in spearing attacks in the Olkineyi (Mosiro Ndogo) area and suspect that it is a poaching ring which has popped up in this area. In response to this, we've deployed the intelligence unit to investigate. Additionally, we have deployed the mobile ranger unit in this area to work together with the Olarro unit. The new Land Cruiser is also in the area to increase the ranger's response time to conflict incidents.

Incidents Situation Report:

Ivory recovered and arrest: 07/08/18.	Two suspects arrested in Migori by KWS rangers and MEP intel, in possession of 39 kg of ivory. Suspects taken to Migori police station and booked. Court location Migori town.
Dead elephant on: 12/08/2018.	Carcass was found in Mara North Conservancy; sick elephant was reported by tourist at Richards Camp to MEP. Rangers monitored the elephant, but it died the same day the cause of death considered as natural, Mike file number 29/18.
Ivory recovered and arrest: 22/08/18.	One suspect arrested in Narok Olkuroto in Ewaso Ngiro by KWS rangers and MEP intel, in possession of 21 kg of ivory. Suspect taken to Narok police station and booked. Court location Narok.

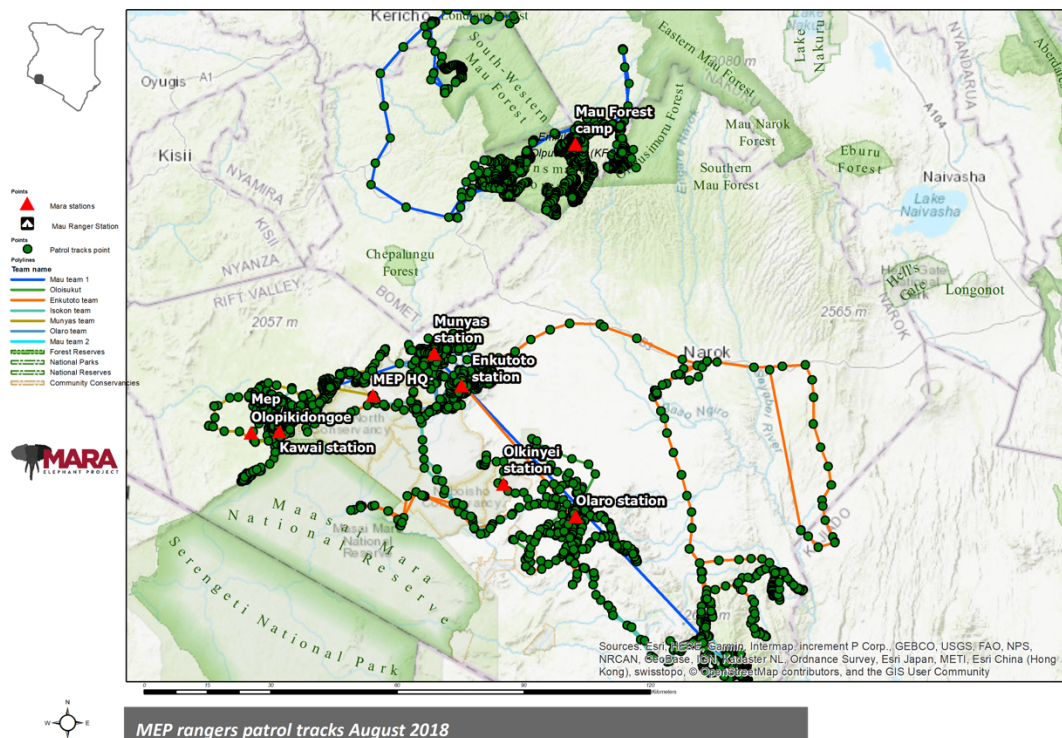
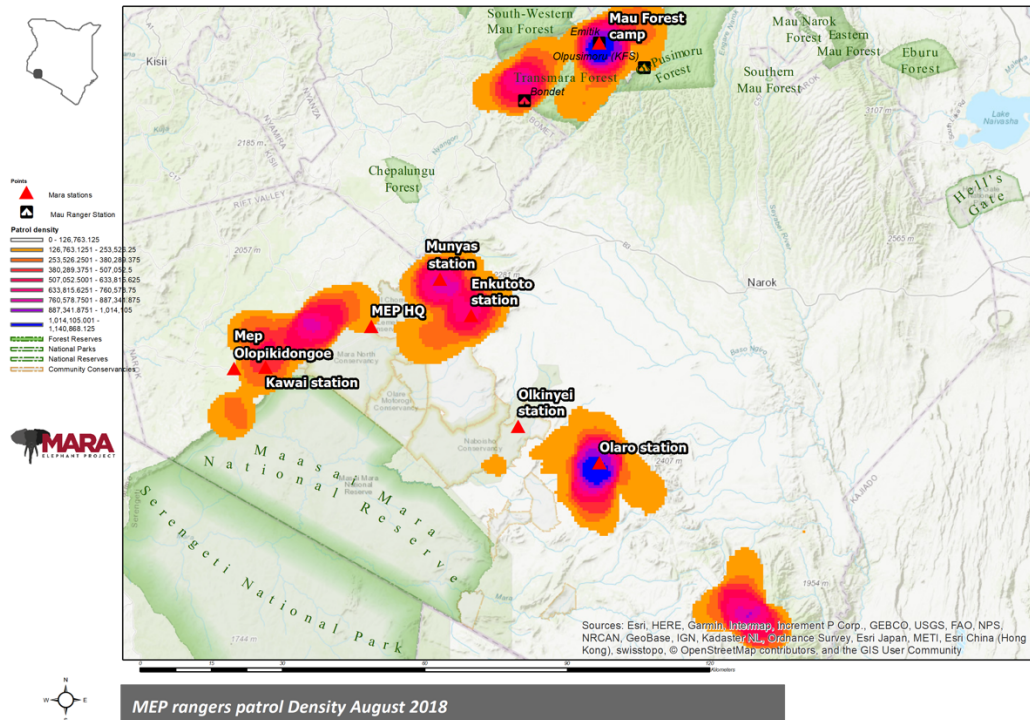
Dead elephant on: 25/08/2018. Carcass was found in Olare Orok Conservancy; the carcass was reported by Olare Conservancy rangers to KWS rangers and to MEP. The cause of death considered as natural. Mike file number 30/18.

Dead elephant on: 31/08/2018. Carcass was found in the border of Olkinyei Conservancy and former Olkinyei Group Ranch; the carcass was reported by local community to KWS rangers and to MEP. Raw cause of death is spear wound, cause of death considered as human-elephant conflict. Mike file number 31/18.



The carcass found with a spear wound on August 31.

Patrol Details:



Human Wildlife Conflict:

HEC has increased in the Isokon area of Transmara as the maize crops ripen in this area. We have moved a team into this area to push the elephants back down the escarpment each evening.

HEC Situation Report:

No.	DATE	REGION	Damage	Crop	Action operation details	Mitigation action
1	29-07-18	Oloisukut	Fence	Maize	Chase before reaching the farm	car & firecrackers
2	08-08-18	Oloisukut	Fence	maize	Remove from farm	firecrackers, lights,car,fire
3	13-08-18	Isokon	none	Maize	Remove from farm	firecrackers, lights,fire and drum
4	14-08-18	isokon	fence	Maize	Chase before reaching the farm	Car & firecrackers
5	15-08-18	isokon	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	car,drums,lights and firecrackers
6	16-08-18	isokon	None	None	Remove from settlement	firecrackers, lights,motorbikes,fire and drum
7	17-08-18	isokon	fence	Maize	Chase before reaching the farm	firecrackers, lights,motorbikes,fire and drum
8	18-08-18	isokon	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	car ,firecrackers, lights,motorbikes,fire and drum
9	19-08-18	isokon	Fence	None	Remove from fenced area	car & firecrackers
10	19-08-18	Munyas	none	none	Remove from settlement	Helicopter
11	20-08-18	isokon	None	Maize	Stop from entering farm	car & firecrackers
12	21-08-18	oloisukut	None	Maize	Remove from settlement area	Helicopter,vehicle and firecracker
13	25-08-18	oloisukut	fence	Maize	Remove from farm	car& firecrackers

Helicopter:

This month we have used the helicopter more than average. There were several reasons for this: the WWF Denmark visit; the dropped collar; a report of gunshots; a potential spearing; and searching for Amare's dropped collar.

Staff:

We have hired two new drivers as two MEP officers are no longer going to drive our vehicles. We promoted one cook to be a ranger and one ranger to be a driver. We will hold a general staff meeting on the 1st of September. Finally, MEP CEO Marc Goss along with Tracking Manager Wilson Sairowua escorted the winning MEP intelligence ranger to the first annual African Ranger Awards in Cape Town, South Africa on August 7. This award given by the Paradise International Foundation and Alibaba Foundation acknowledged 50 rangers throughout Africa with a \$3,000 prize. Each ranger was presented with the award at the ceremony with Jack Ma in attendance.



Since our intelligence ranger was not able to be photographed, MEP Tracking Manager Wilson Sairowua accepted on his behalf.