



*Protect, Conserve, Inspire*

## **REPORT**

**February and March 2017**



*On the 19<sup>th</sup> of February a large herd of elephants got caught in farms and had to be moved out with the helicopter. 1 elephant was treated several days later for gunshot wounds inflicted by the community.*



The rains have certainly started in the Mara and near daily thunder storms come as a very welcome change from the dry season we just came out of. Unfortunately the drought continues in the north of Kenya causing civil unrest in the Laikipia area.

### **General**

In this period we report an increased number of dead elephants. Of the 5 deaths two were as a result of poaching, 1 from conflict, and 2 unknown. The poaching incidents have been in the Loita Hills, which represents a large forested area in the eastern portion of the ecosystem. This area has had little protection for elephants and during the dry period many herders from Tanzania moved into the area in search of grass.

MEP sent a team into the Loita Hills for 10 days to get to the bottom of the poaching incidents and get a better idea of the elephant movements in the area. We plan to have a presence in this area contingent on funding.

**Partnership Development**

MEP and WWF met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and firmed up the contract for 2016-2017 and we will be moving forward with this.

**Fundraising:**

Elephanatics, Jake Wall's organization donated 2,711USD.

Benevity Community Impact fund donated 1,000USD.

Brian Woddy donated 1000USD.

Victoria applied to the Disney Conservation Fund for 50,000USD over 2 years.

**Security:**

MEP over extended to mobilize the RRT to the Loita hills in February. Wilson put together the below report. On the 18<sup>th</sup> of March we furnished an aerial recce in the Mau forest with KWS and found a fresh poacher camp and make contact with a forest scout group who had previously recovered 10 drop spears. We suspect poaching in the Mau continues unchecked.

**MEP Rangers Loita Operation:****Introduction:**

The Loita forest, commonly known as Naimina Enkiyo, is home to elephants during the dry and rainy seasons. The area seems to be isolated for conservation and poaching is increasing every year. MEP has been receiving information from the Loita forest that the local community has heard gunfire. On the 13<sup>th</sup> February MEP, KWS and Narok County Government rangers attached to MEP were deployed to Loita for a two-week operation in the forest. On 15<sup>th</sup> January one carcass was reported by KWS in Loita. The cause of death was considered to be poaching. This pushed MEP to deploy rangers in the Loita and in January MEP deployed our Intelligence Team warden to recce the area.

**Detail of the operation:**

Day 1: 15<sup>th</sup> February - Arrival to Loita and setting up tents.

Day 2: 16<sup>th</sup> February – This day was the start of operation. The team went to Endoinyio Ngiro and received information from herders of dead elephants. They went to the forest together with the herders who know the forest well. Before reaching the carcass the team found a cave suspected to be a poachers cave. In the cave there was a fire, which seems to have lasted for two days. The team

proceeded to Enekeshui where they found one carcass, which was thought to be two weeks old. They were directed by the local community to go to Endoinyio Ngiro where elephants were seen the previous day. But did not manage to see elephants.



Poachers cave in the forest

Day 3: 17<sup>th</sup> February - The team went to Osupuko Oirobi and elephant's tracks were spotted in the area. The whole team patrolled the forest to look for elephants but unfortunately they did not see any. A GPS location of the elephants' tracks was taken and a leopard was spotted in the area.



Day 4: 18<sup>th</sup> February - The team went to a manyatta and was given a report of a dead elephant in the forest. The team went to see the carcass with the village Mzee. They found one carcass of a one-month old elephant. The team drove back to the camp.



Elephant carcass in the Loita forest

Day 5: 19<sup>th</sup> February - The team went to collar an elephant in the Shompole area, where they met with the MEP aerial team,. A female elephant was collared and named “ Ndore”

Day 6: 20<sup>th</sup> February - The patrol team went from Empurputia to Naroksura for refueling and later went on patrol at Enkutoto. Many elephants were spotted in the area heading to the Eastern side of the Loita forest.

Day 7: 21<sup>st</sup> February – The patrol went to Entasekera, though nothing spotted in the area. Later in the afternoon the team followed up intelligence reports at Entasekera shopping center.

Day 8: 22<sup>nd</sup> February- normal patrol to Enkutoto, nothing spotted in the area.

Day 9: 23<sup>rd</sup> February- Travelling back to the Mara.

#### **Incidents SitReps**

<b>Dead elephant on: 10/2/17</b>	A dead elephant was found in Olkinyei conservancy during a routine ground patrol. The cause of death is unknown. Tusks were retrieved and handed over to KWS Siana station. MIKE file number: 3/17
<b>Dead elephant on: 15/02/17</b>	A dead elephant was found in Loita forest. The carcass was in a thick forest on the eastern part of Osupuko Oirobi. Both tusks were missing and poaching was suspected to be the cause of death. MIKE file no: 4/17
<b>Ivory recovered and arrest 21/2/17</b>	2 suspects arrested in Emarti Transmara area with 2 kgs ivory. Suspect taken to Narok KWS station and waiting to be transferred to Narok police station.
<b>Bush meat recovered and arrest 23/2/17</b>	3 suspects arrested in Enkutoto Loita area with 60 kgs Zebra meat. Suspect taken to Narok police station and booked. court location Narok.

<b>Dead elephant on: 27/02/17</b>	A dead adult elephant was found in Loita forest in Ewuapata. The carcass was in a thick forest near a watering point western side of Esoit Olkiu. The cause of death is unknown since the carcass was old. Both tusks were missing and poaching was suspected to be the cause of death. MIKE file no: 5/17
<b>Dead elephant on: 18/03/17</b>	A dead elephant was found in Mara North Conservancy. The carcass was in the southern side of Olare Orok stream, where the two streams meet. No injury was found on the carcass and both the tusks were retrieved. They were taken to Mara North to be picked up by KWS officers. MIKE file no: 6/17
<b>Dead elephant on: 20/03/17</b>	A dead elephant was reported by local community in Endoinyio Erinka, Pardamat Conservancy inside a thick bush on the southern side of the hill, and western of Endoinyio Erinka primary school. The male elephant was tusk less and the cause of death is suspected to be Human- elephant conflict. MIKE file no: 7/17

### HEC

After responding to a large herd of elephants caught in farms on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February the Transmara team found that 1 of the elephants was wounded. On the 28th of February we organized for the DSWT Sky Vet to come and treat the elephant. It had 2 bullet wounds which we believe were inflicted during the 19<sup>th</sup> incident. During this period we have seen a decline in HEC this is due to the end of the harvest season and the start of the planning season.

DATES	SECTOR NAME	GPS LOCATION		CROPS	ACTION/OPERATION DETAILS	MEANS
16/2/2017	Olopidongoe	1° 14.220'S	34° 56.383'E	Maize farms	move elephants out of maize farm	by use of car
17/2/2017	Kirindon	1° 6.567'S	35° 3.998'E	Maize farms	move elephants out of maize farms	by use of helicopter
18/2/2017	Kawai	1° 13.130'S	34° 57.151'E	Maize farms	move elephants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
22/2/2017	Kirindon	1° 7.064'S	35° 3.659'E	Maize farms	chase elephants out of farms at night	by use of car
19/3/2017	Kirindon	1° 7.064'S	35° 3.659'E	Maize farms	chase elephants out of farms at night	by use of car& firecrackers
20/3/2017	Inkinye	1° 6.594'S	35° 4.202'E	Maize farms	chase elephants out of farms at night	by use of car& firecrackers
24/3/2017	Endoinyio Erinka	1° 43.534'S	34° 45.143'E	Electric fence	push elephants out of electric fence	by use of car& firecrackers
28/3/2017	Kirindon	1° 6.681'S	35° 3.835'E	Maize farms	Chase elephants out of maize farms	by use of car& firecrackers
31/3/2017	Endoinyio Narasha	1° 16.280'S	35° 29.564'E	Settlement	Move elephants out of Settlement area	by use of helicopter& firecrackers

### Helicopter Update:

The hanger has been completed and is being used. We have not settled all helicopter accounts and plan to do so. Karsten Ree visited us at the end of March. We will need to continue to fundraise for 2017 helicopter operations.

### Elephant Tracking:

After the poaching incidents in the Loita Hills we responded by collaring a candidate which we hope will give us movement data and allow us to monitor elephants in this area better. We conducted the collaring exercise on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February and the new female collared elephant is named Ndorre. Ndorre is a maasai name for the neckless which children wear. She is in a herd of around 50 individuals who seem to spend most of their time in the thick bush area north of Late Natron in the southern Rift Valley.

Hugo	Hugo moved from raiding farms in the Kirindon area on the on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of February after a heretic HEC incident involving over 100 elephants including 3 other collared elephants. He then moved to Mara north and then continued south to the MMNR; more specifically the Musiara swamp where he currently is
Fred	Fred also left the Kirindon area on the 19 <sup>th</sup> being part of the HEC incident above. He also moved to Musira in the MMNR after the incident. Currently he is near Kichwa Tembo.
Mytene	Mytene has spend the last 2 months in the Northeastern Serengeti.
Ivy	Ivy left Kirindon on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of February and moved into Mara north then Ol Choro conservancy via the Aitong Hills. She is living very close to the Olerai Farm which is fenced.
Caroline	Caroline has been following the water courses in Pardamat conservancy for the last 2 months.
Kegol	Left Kirindon farms on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of February and has been in mara north since then.
Lucy	Lucy left the Kirindon farms on the 19 <sup>th</sup> of February and moved into thick forest in the Nkeweari/Kawai area.
Naibosho	Naibosho has been on the fringes of Telek center and then moved into the southern portion of the MMNR.
Chelsea	Chelsea has been following water courses inside Olkinyei conservancy.
Limo	Limo has been moving up and down a watercourse near Oldonyo Narasha area. He is with a large bull herd which has been responsible for a number of conflict incidents in the area.
Shorty	Spent the duration of the last two months on the eastern boundary of the Serengeti. He stopped crop raiding after the 7 <sup>th</sup> of February.
Kenyorra	Kenyorra has spend the last period in Siana.
Nkoidila	Nkoidila has spend the majority of the last two months inside the northern Serengeti.
Tressa	Tressa has been on the border between the Serengeti and the MMNR.
Namunyak	Namunyak moved from Siana to Pardamat.
Santiyan	Remains in the Mosiro area and has been drinking at the Ewaso Ngiro River.
Chiri	Chiri went to Tanzania from the Olderikesi area and then back into the MMNR.
Alina	Is on the border between MMNR and the Serengeti.
Kiambi	Spent the duration of the period in Olkinyei.
Courtney	Spent the duration along the Mara River between the Triangle and the MMNR.
Olchoda	Is still living in Pardamat conservancy and moving between fences.
Ndorre	Ndorre was collared on the 17 <sup>th</sup> of February in the Shompole area in the southern rift valley. She has been with a large herd of elephants in the thick swampy woodlands north of Lake Natron.

#### **Focus for February and March**

Complete annual report: Almost complete: Finalizing management accounts

Complete hanger: Completed

Receive DSWT Vehicle: Not Received: MEP has not registered for NTSA

Sign WWF contract: Contract completed and amounts agreed on: Not signed

#### **Focus for April and May**

Complete annual report

Register for NTSA

Receive DSWT Vehicle

Sign WWF contract