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MONTHLY PROGRAMME ACTIVITY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

SUMMARY

Typically there was heavy rainfall this November throughout our project sites. Project activities highlighted in this month's report are:

- Tree planting and reforestation
- Fence maintenance
- The Joint Wildlife Protection Team
- Marania Wildlife Guards
- The Horse Patrol Team
- The Elephant Corridor Maintenance Team
- Meetings and workshops

The report covers MKT activities for the period 1st November 2013 to 30th November 2013. The following employees provided field update reports: Humphrey Munene on *fence activities in Ntirimiti* as and *reforestation*. Northern sector reports were provided by the following; the *Marania Wildlife Guards*¹; the *Elephant Corridor Team*², *Horse Patrol Team* and the Northern Area Supervisor, Maurice Thure. Eastern sector updates were collated by the *Joint Wildlife Protection Team*³ led by Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure. The November report was compiled by Project Officer Maurice Onyino Nyaligu.

¹The Marania wildlife guards is a team comprised of Julius Mutuma Kalonga, Joseph Gitonga, Paul Kithinji and Jasper Muthuma

²The Horse patrol team comprises of Joseph Michubu, Pius Mutuma, Samuel Gikunda Japhet and Martin Murugu Gachienja

³JWPT is composed of Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure, Dominic Gitonga, Charles Nyaga, George Mwenda, and Francis Wachira.

1. INTRODUCTION

Northern sector team include 1st to 23rd of November. Eastern sector include the period between the 1st to the 29th of November. Key areas include:

- Reports on illegal activity such as poaching and snaring of wildlife, illegal grazing, charcoal production, logging and bhang cultivation.
- MKT jointly managed fences and corridor fences
- Tree planting
- Meeting with Rhino Ark, KWS, KFS and the British Army on coordinating fire response and management.

1.1 Programme areas

The following project activity areas were patrolled and visited by field based teams this November:

- *Elephant Corridor Team* - Elephant Corridor and the immediate Corridor area.
- *Marania Wildlife Guards* - Marania forest, Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu area, Kimbo area, Daraja ya Charlie, Elephant Corridor, Kiwanja ya Dyer, Emburi area, Mlima Ngaita, Mlima Suruai, Kisima area, Mlima Dinga and Mlima Nyeusi area
- *Horse Patrol Team (HPT)* - Emburi area, Solo camp area, Mlima Ngaita, Marania River, Karoli area, Kisima area, School of Adventure area and Marania forest.
- *Joint Wildlife Protection Team (JWPT)* - Ruthumbi area and the adjoining vicinity.
- *Field Coordinator* - Ntirimiti and Ontulili area.

1.2 Patrol areas covered by the HPT and JWPT in November



Figure 1: Area patrolled by the HPT for the month of November 2013

2. PROJECT UPDATES

Project activities were uninterrupted despite continuous heavy rainfall. A community sensitization meeting was held in Ruthumbi by the JWPT on the 7th November. The meeting targeted CBO's and CFA in the area following invitation by community leaders to discuss forest and wildlife conservation on Mount Kenya.

2.1 Illegal logging in the Forest Reserve

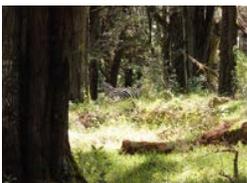
Illegal logging activities were reported by the JWPT and the Marania Wildlife Guards. These incidents are tabulated in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATION/ REMARKS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
1	4 th November 1044hrs	Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several Red cedars (<i>Juniperus procera</i>) logged using power saws	37N 0326826, UTM 0005204	
2	5 th November 1659hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree discovered felled; suspected to be for firewood use	37M 0343622, UTM 9982916	
	5 th November 1726hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Unidentified indigenous tree discovered cut and left to dry	37M 0344133, UTM 9983242	
3	13 th November 1112hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Mature Podo tree encountered during patrol. Tree cut and sawed at site.	37M 0338528, UTM 9985546	

	13 th November 1152hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Unidentified indigenous tree cut for use as firewood.	37M 0339459, UTM 9984816	
4	15 th November 0231hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Received intelligence on the use of power saws in the forest area around Kithira area. Follow-up made without success.	37M 0342001, UTM 9982956	
5	18 th November 1225hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A Mutero (<i>Olea africana</i>) tree discovered cut and splinted ready for charcoal production. Suni (<i>Neotragus moschatus</i>) bones and skin discovered nearby	37M 0336243, UTM 9994644	
6	20 th November 1414hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A Mutero tree discovered cut down for use in the charcoal production.	37M 0336032, UTM 9996034	
7	21 st November 0501hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Intelligence on a power saw in the forest near Iraru River received. Lead followed and an indigenous tree discovered logged along the way.	37M 0340208, UTM 9984822	
8	26 th November 1350hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Four (4) Podo (<i>Podocarpus spp.</i>) trees discovered felled cut with power saws (about 2 weeks old). Matter reported to KFS rangers.	37M 0337076, UTM 9990229	
9	27 th November 2355hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Information on the use of a power saw in the forest received from reliable sources. Lead followed without success,	37M 0341203, UTM 9981030	

2.2 Bush meat snares, wildlife mortalities, bhanga fields and poacher related incidents

Poaching related incidents including snaring were reported by all field based teams this November. These incidents are tabulated below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATION/ REMARKS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
1	1 st November 1149hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	Four (4) suspected poachers' footprints observed.	37N 0316364, UTM 0002830	
	1 st November 1201hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Human footprints observed along a path frequently used by poachers.	37M 0338939, UTM 9986358	
	1 st November 1510hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping large mammals identified and destroyed.	37N 0315886, UTM 0003922	
2	3 rd November 1310hrs	Mlima Ngaita	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) lame zebras observed in a group of four (4). Undoubtedly the result of snaring.	37N 0321973, UTM 0006285	
3	4 th November 1220hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A footpath suspected to be used by Bhang (<i>Canabis sativa</i>) growers and other illicit activities encountered.	37M 0341912, UTM 9983160	
4	8 th November 1020hrs	Marania River side	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) lame zebras observed feeding in a herd of eleven (11).	37N 0322073, UTM 0006326	
5	10 th November 0920hrs	Elephant Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	One (1) lame Waterbuck observed in a herd of fourteen (14).	37N 0328407, UTM 0005227	

6	11 th November 1140hrs	Kimbo area of Muchene forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Fifteen (15) seedlings of bhang planted on an abandoned charcoal kiln	37N 0321002, UTM 0004750	
7	12 th November 0845hrs	Daraja ya Charlie	Marania Wildlife Guards	Suspected poachers' seen moving from Katheri towards Emburi area.	37N 0325568, UTM 0004719	
8	13 th November 0920hrs	Kisima /Emburi areas	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) lame zebras observed in a herd of five (5).	37N 0319096, UTM 0005615	
9	14 th November 0919hrs	Solo camp area	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) lame zebras observed.	37N 0321473, UTM 0002860	
10	15 th November 1336hrs	Emburi area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poachers' route crossing discovered from northeast to south west.	37N 0329953, UTM 0004305	
11	17 th November 1033hrs	Kiwanja ya Dyre	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several dog prints noted during routine patrol in the area.	37N 0325128, UTM 0004344	
	17 th November 1146hrs	Kiwanja ya Dyre	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poachers' hut (cave) identified with a fire place.		
	17 th November 1307hrs	Kiwanja ya Dyre	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poachers' route leading to a cave discovered.	37N 0324107, UTM 0003393	
12	19 th November 1110hrs	Marania River side	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) lame zebras observed in a herd of ten (10).	37N 0324011, UTM 0006220	

13	20 th November 1012hrs	Kisima /Emburi farms	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) large snare capable of entrapping large mammals observed and collected.	37N 0321176, UTM 0008031	
	20 th November 1015hrs	Kisima /Emburi farm boundary	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping medium sized animals collected.	37N 0321171, UTM 0008222	
	20 th November 1140hrs	Kisima /Emburi farm boundary	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping large mammals discovered and collected.	37N 0321149, UTM 0008311	
	20 th November 1231hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Signs of snares observed alongside debarked trees used to camouflage snares.	37M 0337410, UTM 9994076	
14	21 st November 1120hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of trapping small mammals collected.	37N 0320907, UTM 0003914	
15	22 nd November 1105hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A destroyed poachers' hut discovered.	37M 0330741, UTM 9980674	
	22 nd November 1125hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members encounter a deserted bhang field.	37M 0330621, UTM 9980632	
	22 nd November 1637hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) small snare encountered near Themwe area.	37M 0336235, UTM 9983940	

16	26 th November 1153hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Human and dog prints (dogs are used for hunting antelope) emanating from the forest.	37M 0338706, UTM 9991818	
	26 th November 1234hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) demobilized snare found and removed.	37M 0337598, UTM 9991238	
	26 th November 1312hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A recent snare designed to entrap small mammals seen alongside elephant prints.	37M 0336224, UTM 9990396	

2.3 Charcoal burning, charcoal kilns and illegal firewood collection

As indicated in the table below, a number of incidents were reported this November:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATION/ REMARKS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
1	11 th November 1140hrs	Kimbo area of Muchene forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	An abandoned charcoal kiln encountered with fifteen bhang seedlings growing on top.	37N 0321002, UTM 0004750	
	11 th November 1142hrs	Kimbo area of Muchene forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Ten (10) abandoned illegal charcoal kilns encountered	37N 0321002, UTM 0004750	
	11 th November 1143hrs	Kimbo area of Muchene forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	One (1) working charcoal kiln and several logs ready for burning encountered. Teams destroy the kilns.	37N 0321002, UTM 0004750	
2	20 th November 1458hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) charcoal kiln and several logs of <i>Olea africana</i> encountered. Tree felled using a power saw; a forked jembe and spade recovered.	37M 0335369, UTM 9995440	

3	27 th November 1246hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A fresh kiln observed with Olea logs.	37M 0336243, UTM 9994644	
	27 th November 1417hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A charcoal kiln found and destroyed.	37M 0335304, UTM 9995494	
	27 th November 1618hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A wooden wheel barrow observed used for ferrying fuel wood without a permit. A dog accompanying the suspects is shot by KWS.	37M 0338407, UTM 997404	
4	29 th November 1314hrs	Ruthumbi forest	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team revisits an old charcoal kiln with the intention of an ambush. Unsuccessful.	37M 0336443, UTM 9994644	

2.4 Fence initiatives (Ntirimiti short fence)

Low voltage continues to be reported on the Ntirimiti short fence. Sabotage by some community members was also witnessed and at some points, deliberate shorts were found and rectified. Along



the Ntirimiti Kibirichia road adjacent to the fence, a section of the community were found to have cultivated potatoes on the road reserve right up to the forest boundary despite warnings by community leaders and the resident forester. The problem was communicated to the area administrative authorities who were partly able to deal with it. However, some elements within the community refused to comply and KFS resorted to the idea of spraying herbicides on all crops planted four meters from the fence boundary. A KFS Ranger supervised the spraying.

Even after the problem of deliberate shorting of the fence was resolved and the sky cleared, it was found that battery charge no longer sustains sufficient voltage till the following day. This places the entire fence line at a risk of being violated by elephants because it remains ineffective for significant periods during the night. Since the energizer is functioning properly and the battery appears to be in proper order, suspicion has fallen on the solar panels thought to have faulty diodes. The situation is further complicated by the fact that it's been a problem accessing the panel because of its permanent fixture. This means, the pole on which the panels are mounted will have to be brought down if the current situation is to be resolved. Following a corridor committee meeting it was agreed that the fencer from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy would help the MKT team find a solution to the problem.

2.4.1 Fence destruction and manipulation

The sequence of events pertaining to fence manipulation, intrusion and destruction along the Elephant Corridor during the month of November is listed below:

- On 1st November at unknown time a lorry pulled down one side of Marania Bridge resulting in damage to a section of the fence perimeter. Major repairs were implemented by the corridor fence team the following day with the help of our Marania Wildlife Guards
- On 3rd November at about 1230hrs three men were seen harvesting star grass at the lower Corridor, but on seeing the MKT fencer approach, they fled.
- On 5th November at about 0840hrs an MKT fencer was patrolling the Kamiti Corridor when he came across four blue gum (*Eucalyptus spp.*) trees cut and hidden in a bush.
- On 8th November at about 0930hrs an MKT fencer came across a huge tree felled by strong winds which lay along the fence perimeter on Trinnie Courtland's part of the corridor resulting a short. The fencing team worked together to restore power to the fence.
- On 17th November at about 0834hrs a MKT fencer came across loose fence wires damaged by intruders, repairs were done immediately.

2.5 Illegal grazing in the Forest /National Reserve

Two cases of illegal grazing in the Forest Reserve were reported by the Marania Wildlife Guards and the Horse Patrol Team as depicted in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	COORDINATES	OBSERVATION/REMARKS
1	1st November 1232hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	37N 0315628, UTM 0007117	A man with a dog encountered illegally grazing eight (8) goats and in possession of a fake KFS permit.
2	17th November 0510hrs	Middle house of Elephant Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	37M 0340664, UTM 9992441	Three (3) cows observed illegally grazing within the Corridor precincts'. Animals taken to the chief's office.

2.6 Tree destruction by elephants and heavy rains

Elephants continue to be observed damaging trees particularly in the northern project areas. These incidents are tabulated below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	INCIDENT	COORDINATES
1	9 th November 1030hrs	Mlima Suruai	Marania Wildlife Guards	One (1) elephant seen breaking down a Cypress (<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i>) tree	37N 0327987, UTM 0007025
2	9 th November 1320hrs	Mlima Suruai	Marania Wildlife Guards	A number of unidentified indigenous trees seen destroyed by elephants. Some illegal loggers later observed taking advantage of the situation by chopping off felled trees and transporting them using ox-carts	37N 0327432, UTM 0005525
3	19 th November 1000hrs	Marania river side/ Solo camp areas	Horse Patrol Team	A pine tree (<i>Pinus patula</i>) observed to have been uprooted by an elephant	37N 0323572, UTM 0005998
4	21 st November 0852hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	Elephant movements observed to have resulted in tree destruction	37N 0319771, UTM 0005861

2.7 Tree planting and reforestation

Tree planting and reforestation activities resumed this month in Karuri area of the Ontulili forest block. Tree seedlings collected from two women groups were supplied to farmers cultivating in the area to plant in fresh designated areas not planted previously. A total of 4,500 tree seedlings were planted and it's hoped adequate rains during the season will ensure a higher rate of survival.



Seedlings planted during the previous planting season continue to establish themselves. Community members are also satisfied with the crop yields and this serves as a motivation for members to continue providing labour in planting supplied tree seedlings. The 20ha area that was initially made available to neighbouring community members of the CFA to farm and plant tree seedlings on a pilot project is now complete. During the month the KFS reassigned a new planting area for the coming planting seasons.

3. Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees met in Nairobi on November 6th.

4. Elephant Corridor Committee Meeting

The elephant Corridor Committee met to discuss corridor management on November 19th.

5. Meeting with Govt. Agencies, Rhino Ark and the British Army (BATUK) on fire and emergency response on Mount Kenya and Aberdare mountain range

A stakeholder consultative meeting to map out a strategy of coordinating fire and other emergency response measures on Mount Kenya and the Aberdare mountain range ecosystems was held on the 25th

November at the Old House. The meeting was facilitated by a consultant from the British Army and several stakeholders were invited. It was agreed that a fire implementation strategy would first be put in place and a zero draft modelled along the London emergency implementation plan will be made available to stakeholders in the coming week. This strategy will be followed up by a meeting early next year ahead of the fire season. Stakeholders' will have the opportunity to enrich the draft once this is made available.

We are indebted to you all for your support in 2013!