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## **MONTHLY PROGRAMME ACTIVITY REPORT**

JULY 2014

## SUMMARY

During July weather conditions were relatively dry, cold and windy. Field personnel worked in tandem with KFS, KWS and other law enforcement agencies while advocacy and campaigns were extended to include other partners in the area of public health (through a reproductive outreach health initiative with County and National Government health officials) and on Elephant sensitization campaigns (with the organization Elephant Neighbours Centre based in Langata, Nairobi). Intervention areas highlighted in this month's programme report are:



- Advocacy and community Elephant poaching sensitization campaigns
- Training and capacity building on data collection protocols
- Tree planting and reforestation activities
- The Joint Wildlife Protection Team
- Marania Wildlife Guards
- The Horse Patrol Team
- The Elephant Corridor
- The Community Health Service Project

The report covers MKT activities for the period 30<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Reports were provided by the following employees: Humphrey Munene<sup>1</sup> on *the Trust's new Community Health Service project* as well as *Tree planting and reforestation* initiatives. Northern sector reports were provided by the following; the *Marania Wildlife Guards*<sup>2</sup>; the *Horse Patrol Team*<sup>3</sup>, the *Elephant Corridor Team*<sup>4</sup> as well as the northern area supervisor<sup>5</sup> on interrelated aspects and security updates. Ruthumbi Forest sector field data was consolidated by the *Joint Wildlife Protection Team*<sup>6</sup> led by Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure. The July 2014 report was compiled by Maurice Nyaligu<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Humphrey Munene is the Trust's field coordinator

<sup>2</sup> The Marania wildlife guards is a team comprised of Elijah Kipsang, Julius Mutuma Kalonga, Joseph Gitonga, Paul Kithinji and Henry Mutwiri

<sup>3</sup> The Horse patrol team comprises of Joseph Michubu, Pius Mutuma, Samuel Gikunda Japhet and Martin Murugu Gachienja

<sup>4</sup> The Elephant Corridor Team comprises of Robert Murega, Charles Gitonga, Mari Weru and Jasper Muthuri

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Maurice Thure serves as the Northern Sector Supervisor

<sup>6</sup> JWPT is composed of Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure, Dominic Gitonga, Charles Nyaga, George Mwenda, and Francis Wachira.

<sup>7</sup> Mr. Nyaligu is the Trust's Programme Officer

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Programmatic activities discussed during this month's field interventions are:

- Forest fires
- Illegal logging and illegal charcoal kilns within the National Reserve
- Snaring of wildlife and poacher related incidents
- Arrests and apprehensions
- Elephant mortalities
- Habitat destruction and related activities by elephants
- Illegal collection of grass and fuel wood
- Elephant Corridor fence intrusion
- Collation of Elephant movement data within the Corridor
- Advocacy and community Elephant poaching sensitization campaigns
- Training and capacity building on data collection protocols
- Tree planting and reforestation activities
- Reports on the Trust's reproductive health outreach project

### 1.1 Programme patrol and operational areas

The following project activity areas were patrolled by field based teams this month. These are:

- *Elephant Corridor Fencing Team* - The length and breadth of the Elephant Corridor
- *Marania Wildlife Guards* - Marania Forest, Mlima Ngaita area, School of Adventure area, Kimbo area, Elephant Corridor, Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu area, Kiigene area, Mlima Dinga area, Mlima Suruwa, Kisima area, Kiwanja ya Dyer and Cefa area all within northern project operational area of Mount Kenya National Forest Reserve
- *Horse Patrol Team (HPT)* - Marania Forest, Marania River side, Solo Camp area, Mlima Ngaita, Emburi/Karoli area, School of Adventure and Emburi Farm /Kisima Farm boundary
- *Joint Wildlife Protection Team (JWPT)* – Ruthumbi forest, adjoining vicinity and parts of Themwe
- *Field Coordinator* - Meru County (on reproductive health issues, tree planting and reforestation activities)
- *Community Health Service Project* – a preliminary outreach took place in Timau.

## 2. PROJECT UPDATES

### 2.1 Forest fires

From early July, the Marania Wildlife Guards were involved in assisting with resurgent forest fires in several localities within the project operational areas. All fires were reportedly induced by herders and /or illegal honey harvesters. Their deployment at various sections of the northern sections of the mountain including on the moorland continued until the last of the fires was finally extinguished in late July. Both the KFS and KWS teams took part and acknowledged the tremendous contribution the team had made given the dry, windy conditions favourable to rapid fire spread.



#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	7 <sup>th</sup> July 1051hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members extinguish a fire which ignited a rosewood tree ( <i>Hagenia abyssinica</i> ) started by herders roasting maize under the tree	N 00.03394° E 037.29757°	
2.	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 0936hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A burning Podo ( <i>Podocarpus spp.</i> ) tree is encountered by team members following leads that illegal honey harvesters may be responsible. KFS and KWS Marania arrived with extinguishers and a power saw	N 00.06700° E 037.48655°	
3.	28 <sup>th</sup> July 0955hrs	Cefa area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members encounter burning Tussock grass (suspected to have been set ablaze by herders deliberately). The dangerous fire was quickly extinguished	N 00.05771° E 037.49327°	
	28 <sup>th</sup> July 0955hrs	Cefa area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Another Tussock field discovered burnt by suspected herders to induce grass growth ahead of the coming rains	N 00.05356° E 037.49675°	

## 2.2 Illegal logging and illegal charcoal kilns within the National Reserve

During the month, both the JWPT and the Marania Wildlife Guards were able to unearth a number of incidents of illegal logging activities including cases that involved commercial saw millers. In all instances, the trees that had been cut were indigenous except for a single case of Cypress (*Cupressus lusitanica*). The trees were mainly Red Cedar (*Juniperus procera*), Camphor - *Ocotea usambarensis*, and Podo - *Podocarpus latifolius*, and *Podocarpus falcatus*). Several arrests were made. These incidents are tabulated overleaf:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	16 <sup>th</sup> July 1335hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) Podo ( <i>Podocarpus spp.</i> ) found chopped and milled at site using a power saw	N 00°07'48.6" E 037°31'30.4"	
2.	18 <sup>th</sup> July 1215hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members come across a site where an old Red cedar ( <i>Juniperus procera</i> ) had been logged and chopped for use as fencing posts	N 00°05'07.1" E 037°30'26.9"	
	18 <sup>th</sup> July 1440hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members encounter a site where a number of Red cedar posts had been chopped. Suspects escape upon seeing the team	S 00°04'44.6" E 037°30'17.5"	
3.	21 <sup>st</sup> July 1348hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A sawed Red cedar tree found by team members	S 00°04'46.5" E 037°30'04.8"	
4.	24 <sup>th</sup> July 1125hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Several old Red cedar trunks found chopped for use as fencing posts	S 00°05'17.2" E 037°30'33.5"	
	24 <sup>th</sup> July 1306hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover one Red cedar tree chopped using a chain saw	S 00°04'40.8" E 037°30'17.2"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
5.	25 <sup>th</sup> July 1146hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A ' <i>Mukaragati</i> ' tree found chopped using an axe and purposed for firewood collection	S 00°09'34.6" E 037°35'52.1"	
	25 <sup>th</sup> July 1250hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A ' <i>Muriati</i> ' tree discovered felled. No chopping had occurred. Suspected for use as fencing posts	S 00°09'26.9" E 037°35'51.7"	
	25 <sup>th</sup> July 1400hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Three (3) ' <i>Mukaragati</i> ' trees found felled with an axe. Suspected for use as fuelwood	S 00°09'25.2" E 037°35'49.1"	
6.	28 <sup>th</sup> July 1501hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members encounter suspected loggers with two (2) Camphor ( <i>Ocotea usambarensis</i> ) logs. Suspects managed to escape	S 00°09'19.1" E 037°36'09.1"	
7.	29 <sup>th</sup> July 0956hrs	Küigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A fresh charcoal kiln discovered by team members during patrol. Estimated at three days old	N 00.02500° E 037.47255°	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
	29 <sup>th</sup> July 1022hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Two suspects arrested while packing charcoal onto bags ( <i>see arrests</i> ) from a fresh kiln	N 00.02150° E 037.47322°	
	29 <sup>th</sup> July 1051hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Another fresh charcoal kiln discovered by team member during patrols	N 00.02201° E 037.47382°	
	29 <sup>th</sup> July 1058hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A relatively recent charcoal kiln discovered by team members	N 00.02193° E 037.47350°	
	29 <sup>th</sup> July 1103hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members discover a fresh charcoal kiln	N 00.02914° E 037.47366°	
8.	31 <sup>st</sup> July 0950hrs	Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	Logging of Cypress ( <i>Cupressus lusitana</i> ) using power saws observed during patrol No permits to ascertain legality	N 00.05241° E 037.45246°	

### 2.3 Snaring of wildlife and poacher related incidents

Cases involving the snaring of wildlife and related poacher activities were reported by the JWPT, Marania Wildlife Guards and the Horse Patrol Team. These incidents are tabulated below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	4 <sup>th</sup> July 1310hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) old snare suspected for use in trapping Bushbuck found and immobilized	S 00.21247 <sup>0</sup> E 037.46283 <sup>0</sup>	
	4 <sup>th</sup> July 1346hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) medium sized snare designed to trap small mammals found and immobilized	S 00.10464 <sup>0</sup> E 037.54365 <sup>0</sup>	
	4 <sup>th</sup> July 1426hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) old snare and a Colobus monkey skin discovered next to each other	S 00.10093 <sup>0</sup> E 037.54419 <sup>0</sup>	
	4 <sup>th</sup> July 1437hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two (2) large rope snares designed to entrap Elephants found and immobilized	S 00.10117 <sup>0</sup> E 037.54637 <sup>0</sup>	
2.	5 <sup>th</sup> July 1219hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Members of the JWPT while on patrol manage to discover and immobilize a wire snare designed to entrap Elephants	S 00.09359 <sup>0</sup> E 037.50444 <sup>0</sup>	
	5 <sup>th</sup> July 1240hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	The team discovers an old snare and remains of a Buffalo carcass just ten (10) meters apart. The snare was large enough to target big mammals	S 00.09437 <sup>0</sup> E 037.50390 <sup>0</sup>	
	5 <sup>th</sup> July 1257hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) snare discovered tied to a tree. The JWPT managed to immobilize it	S 00.09040 <sup>0</sup> E 037.50205 <sup>0</sup>	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
3.	6 <sup>th</sup> July 1012hrs	Marania forest	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Zebra observed in a grazing herd of eighteen (18). Zebra was lame on the right hind limb with wounds suspected to be the result of snares	N 00.04648° E 037.40797°	
4.	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1009hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Zebra (back right limb) observed feeding in a grazing herd of thirteen (13)	N 00.05096° E 037.38475°	
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1128hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover two (2) snares and manage to immobilize them	S 00.14539° E 037.52472°	
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1230hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two (2) snares discovered and immobilized by team members	S 00°06'18.9" E 037°31'02.6"	
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1316hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members manage to unearth and destroy a snare designed to entrap small mammals	S 00.13475° E 037.50992°	
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1355hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	The JWPT stumble upon a suspected poacher /illegal logger hideout active with a fire and cooking place near a waterfall	S 00°07'58.5" E 037°29'48.2"	
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1459hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) Elephant rope snare found intact, and immobilized by team members	S 00.12434° E 037.48068°	
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1615hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping large mammals such as Elephants discovered and removed	S 00.11696° E 037.48970°	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
5.	16 <sup>th</sup> July 1055hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	One (1) string snare found neatly concealed with salt to entrap small mammals	S 00.02570° E 037.47250°	
	16 <sup>th</sup> July 1335hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) nylon snare found and immobilized by team members	S 00°07'48.6" E 037°31'30.4"	
6.	21 <sup>st</sup> July 1121hrs	Kisima area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several dog prints and suspected poacher prints observed during patrol along Mlima Ngaita /Kisima area	N 00.05841° E 037.40742°	
7.	23 <sup>rd</sup> July 0955hrs	Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspicious person escapes upon being confronted by the team	N 00.06990° E 037.48268°	
8.	24 <sup>th</sup> July 1440hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover a hideout suspected to be in use by poachers /illegal loggers. A fire place and a sack of potatoes found in place	S 00°04'22.3" E 037°31'39.8"	
	24 <sup>th</sup> July 1444hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover and immobilize an old snare designed to entrap large mammals	S 00°04'20.8" E 037°31'34.4"	
9.	26 <sup>th</sup> July 0923hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) wire snare capable of entrapping small mammals	N 00.03341° E 037.23373°	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
				found and destroyed		
	26 <sup>th</sup> July 1000hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	A medium sized wire snare found and immobilized by team	N 00.04084 <sup>0</sup> E 037.23388 <sup>0</sup>	
	26 <sup>th</sup> July 1030hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	Team members encounter a large wire snare set along a footpath	N 00.04409 <sup>0</sup> E 037.23344 <sup>0</sup>	
10.	27 <sup>th</sup> July 1412hrs	Horse Patrol Team Camp area	Horse Patrol Team	Ten (10) armed poachers with several dogs manage to chase and kill a Waterbuck. KWS responded quickly shooting several dogs but suspects escaped	N 00.03327 <sup>0</sup> E 037.24103 <sup>0</sup>	
11.	28 <sup>th</sup> July 0948hrs	River Marania	Horse Patrol Team	Team members unearth two (2) wire snares in thicket for medium sized mammals	N 00.03463 <sup>0</sup> E 037.25126 <sup>0</sup>	
	28 <sup>th</sup> July 1043hrs	Marania River side	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Zebra observed in a grazing herd of ten (10)	N 00.03463 <sup>0</sup> E 037.23844 <sup>0</sup>	
	28 <sup>th</sup> July 1211hrs	Cefa area	Marania Wildlife Guards	On the banks of Sacred Lake, the team discover 12 manila snares capable of trapping small sized mammals within a 50m <sup>2</sup> radius	N 00.04448 <sup>0</sup> E 037.54062 <sup>0</sup>	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
12.	29 <sup>th</sup> July 0950hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	An unusual snare combining three (3) Bamboo sticks and a wire found and immobilized	N 00.02570 <sup>o</sup> E 037.47253 <sup>o</sup>	
	29 <sup>th</sup> July 1007hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Illegal charcoal burner hideout composed of nylon paper and cooking utensils	N 00.02140 <sup>o</sup> E 037.47190 <sup>o</sup>	
	29 <sup>th</sup> July 1040hrs	Kiigene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspicious hut suspected to be long to charcoal burners found and destroyed	N 00.02198 <sup>o</sup> E 037.47417 <sup>o</sup>	

## 2.4 Elephant mortality

An the bones of an old elephant carcass were found by the Joint Wildlife Protection Team in the Ruthumbi area of Mount Kenya this July. Due to decay it was impossible to determine the cause of death.

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1515hrs	S 00.012238 <sup>o</sup> E 037.48092 <sup>o</sup>	Ruthumbi	JWPT	The bony remains of an old elephant carcass found. Age - sub adult. Sex - female. Tusks not present. Cause of death indeterminate	

## 2.5 Arrests and apprehensions



Two formal arrests were made this July. The first relating to Charcoal production was reported by the Marania Wildlife Guards. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of July at about 1022hrs the team in conjunction with KWS Marania Station while on a normal patrol in Kiigene area found a couple busy removing and packing charcoal, they manage to arrest them with two bags of charcoal taken as exhibit. The suspects: Wilfred Kirimi and Stella Nkaimura, were booked at Kiirua police station vide OB: No. 6/29/7/2014 with the offence of cutting and burning of charcoal contrary to section 52 of the forest act 2005. They were subsequently arraigned at the Meru law

courts and pleaded guilty to the charge. Wilfred Kirimi was fined ksh.50, 000/- default 6 months imprisonment on his own plea of guilty and Stella Nkaimura was sentenced 6 Community Service Orders on her own plea of guilty. The incident was unearthed along waypoint N 00.02150<sup>0</sup> and E 037.47322<sup>0</sup>.

The second arrest was made by the Elephant Corridor fencing team with assistance of Kisima security. On 29<sup>th</sup> of July at about 1000hrs three people were seen by an MKT fencer harvesting grass within the Corridor. With help from Kisima security, they ambushed and manage to arrest one suspect as the rest escaped in different directions along waypoint N 00.13301<sup>0</sup>, E 037.47896<sup>0</sup>. The suspect Kimathi Kirimi was booked at Subuiga Police Station with the offence of stealing contrary to Section 275 of the Penal Code and for trespassing on private property.



## 2.6 Illegal grazing, cultivation of marijuana, beekeeping and other illegal activities

Incidences are recorded below:

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS
1.	4 <sup>th</sup> July 1254hrs	S 00.21247 <sup>0</sup> E 037.46283 <sup>0</sup>	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members encounter a herder with seven (7) cattle without a permit
2.	5 <sup>th</sup> July 1212hrs	N 00.07228 <sup>0</sup> E 037.28582 <sup>0</sup>	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	Community members noted to be crossing the Elephant Corridor to collect grass
	5 <sup>th</sup> July 1320hrs	N 00.07407 <sup>0</sup> E 037.28623 <sup>0</sup>	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members encounter a hole under the Corridor fence where intruders illegally harvest and collect fuelwood
3.	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1105hrs	S 00°08'22.8" E 037°31'33.0"	Ruthumbi /Themwe	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Several illegal grazers observed grazing animals during patrols in Themwe /Maji Chumvi area
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1139hrs	S 00.14504 <sup>0</sup> E 037.52259 <sup>0</sup>	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members come across an area suspected to harbor illegal beehives
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1150hrs	S 00°08'47.5" E 037°31'06.5"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Some illegal beehives noted alongside a debarked Podo ( <i>Podocarpus spp.</i> ) tree trunk

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS
	14 <sup>th</sup> July 1724hrs	S 00.11103 <sup>o</sup> E 037.49411 <sup>o</sup>	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover and destroy a small sized <i>Bhang</i> field

## 2.7 Habitat destruction and related activities by elephants and humans

This July, there were reports of littering and other habitat destruction by humans and damage to trees by Elephants on several occasions within the northern section of Mount Kenya. Below is a chronology of events relating to these observations:

- 7<sup>th</sup> July (0911hrs) - the Marania Wildlife Guards while patrolling Kimbo area came across a site where plastic disused engine oil containers had been dumped and scattered all over by loggers allowed by KFS to harvest forest products using power saws. This incident was witnessed along waypoint N 00.03394<sup>o</sup>, E 037.29757<sup>o</sup>. The plastic containers were also observed to leak oil
- 14<sup>th</sup> July (1033hrs) - within Kimbo area along waypoint N 00.05478<sup>o</sup>, E 037.47916<sup>o</sup> the Guards once again came across littered empty engine oil containers left scattered within the forest by members of the community who harvest fuel wood using power saws and fail to dispose such containers in an appropriate manner
- 24<sup>th</sup> July (1015hrs) - Samburu pastoralists escaping drought in the lowlands in search of pasture and water were noted to have invaded parts of the National Reserve from North West of the slopes of Mlima Dinga to Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu area along waypoint N 00.05051<sup>o</sup>, E 037.43550<sup>o</sup>. Local wildlife had deserted the area because of the overcrowding of herders and cattle
- 27<sup>th</sup> July (1048hrs) - while the team were on patrol at Kiwanja ya Dyer area came across several cattle *bomas* erected by the herders to guard cattle at night along waypoint N 00.04749<sup>o</sup>, E 037.43944<sup>o</sup>. A number of trees and shrubs had been cut so as to erect the *bomas*. It is still not clear why authorities have allowed this to happen.
- 31<sup>st</sup> July (1004hrs) - team members come across a fresh carcass of Samburu pastoralist cattle that had died along waypoint N 00.04772<sup>o</sup>, E 037.43893<sup>o</sup> within the Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu area. There are unconfirmed but reliable reports that many of the pastoralist cattle are dying in the forest and that the uninspected meat is being sold in local markets at Ntirimiti.



## 2.8 Elephant Corridor fence intrusion

- 3<sup>rd</sup> July (1330hrs) - several wild Olive (*Olea spp.*) trees observed to have been chopped by unknown people along waypoint 37N 0329399, UTM 0014659
- 5<sup>th</sup> July (0805hrs) - the MKT fencer at the Kamiti section observed five Blue gum (*Eucalyptus spp.*) trees harvested by unknown people and ferried away along waypoint 37N 0329399, UTM 0014689
- 8<sup>th</sup> July (0735hrs) - the MKT fencer at Kamiti section encounters an area where grass had been harvested by unknown people along waypoint N 00.12347<sup>o</sup>, E 037.77066<sup>o</sup>

- 12<sup>th</sup> July (1605hrs) - 45 Blue gum trees observed logged by unknown people and ferried away along waypoint N 00.13188<sup>0</sup>, E 037.47879<sup>0</sup>. This incident took place while field staff were attending training at the Mpala Research centre
- 22<sup>nd</sup> July (0804hrs) - grass noted to have been harvested and ferried away by unknown people along waypoint N 00.13477<sup>0</sup>, E 037.47738<sup>0</sup>
- 20<sup>th</sup> July (1430hrs) - the fencer at the lower Corridor section sees three men splitting Red cedar posts but managed to run away upon being discovered. 39 posts were recovered and transported to Kisima for safe custody along waypoint N 00.13613<sup>0</sup>, E 037.46157<sup>0</sup>.

## 2.9 Collation of Elephant movement data within the Corridor

In collaboration with the corridor partners, a student and elephant researcher from the UK who is based at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy has installed a number of cameras at strategic locations along the Corridor to capture Elephant movement and data. The data will be collated and analysed over time to acquire a more coherent picture of elephant population and dynamics.

## 2.10 Advocacy and community Elephant poaching sensitization campaigns



The Elephant Neighbours Centre (a local NGO based in Langata) organized an elephant sensitization walk from Nanyuki to Nyahururu town via Nyeri from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2014. The walk was organized around the theme '*Ivory belongs to Elephants*' and was supported by KWS, the County Commissioner's office, MKT and other stakeholders. MKT supported the walk financially as well as committing some of the environmental films and sending the JWPT to join the walk through a section from Nanyuki town. The walk also doubled up as an advocacy platform for sensitization of the public. The Trust's programme officer highlighted ongoing work by MKT and partners and pledged future support for similar

initiatives within the immediate vicinity of the Mountain. Overall, the walk was very well received.

## 2.11 Training and capacity building on data collection protocols



MKT field teams have significantly improved their understanding of Elephant and other wildlife mortality data collection procedures under MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) and MIST (Management of Information System) reporting protocols thanks to a joint training conducted and facilitated by MKT and the organization '*Space for Giants*' this July. This training was initially scheduled for March /April 2014, but took place from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 2014. Training was conducted at the Mpala Research Centre at Mpala Ranch and was facilitated by two trainers from '*Space for Giants*' and

coordinated by the Trust's programme officer. The objective of the training was to capacity build MKT scouts and other field based officers to conform to current data collection procedures on law enforcement and monitoring adopted by Kenya (KWS) as one of the African Elephant range states. Using samples gathered by '*Space for Giants*' MKT scouts were able to i.e. familiarize themselves with actual data collection procedures, learn to identify elephant skulls, age of elephants, some aspects of elephant population dynamics, sexing of



skulls using dentition and bones, as well as tracking using GPS hand set units. All the MKT field teams took part. While conducting field exercises, our teams found and immobilized a number of snares the scouts just 200m from the Mpala Research headquarters. The Mpala authorities were informed.

## 2.12 Tree planting and reforestation activities

Preparations for the next planting season have already begun. The Gatinka Tumaini Women Group have been busy nurturing tree seedlings in preparation for the short rains (beginning October) and the planting season. The new tree nursery site for the group is now fully operational with all the tree seedlings from isolated tree nurseries consolidated in one place. Much of the work done this month involved arranging seedlings according to maturity and consolidating them in a central locality. The group currently has well over 5,000 tree seedlings ready for planting within the next two months. This particular group and their tree planting activities are being supported by Safarilink. Another group working with the Trust from the Ontulili area are the Kianjogu Mwanzo Mwema



Women Group. They are also preparing for the next planting season and are tending to a newly germinated seedling stock for next year.

## 2.13 Community Health Service Project

The Trust this July began implementing a one-year pilot project offering health services in the Mount Kenya region. The project is implemented jointly with the County and National health officials and is supported by the organization CHASE. The initial startup and set-up was a challenge due to the new governance structures that are still not well entrenched (in both Meru and Embu but more so in Embu). Before any of the field activity could be undertaken, it was mandatory to obtain approval from various authorities. During deliberation with the Health Officials in both counties, the following issues were noted:

- The National Government health sector is promoting long term reproductive health access and services
- Screening of cervical cancer has emerged as a major concern and is being emphasized during outreaches. Health officers have requested that the project acquire a screening kit.

The first outreach for the project was undertaken on the 24<sup>th</sup> July at Kithithina Location in Timau, Buuri Sub-County of Meru County. During the outreach the National Health officials availed a

*locum* nurse who attended to a total of 38 clients. Reproductive health and curative services were offered on this occasion. The Trust was represented by Lillian Wanjiku and Humphrey Munene.

