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## **MONTHLY PROGRAMME ACTIVITY REPORT**

OCTOBER 2014

## SUMMARY

Two incidents of Elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*)<sup>1</sup> mortalities were reported by the Marania Wildlife Guards; and a young elephant was found abandoned within the Corridor. The first mortality was due to natural causes while the second was the end result of poaching. The number of elephants reportedly using the Corridor towards the end of the month have increased. Notable changes in population structure have been observed amongst several herds primarily infants and juveniles. The recently collared elephants have



also repeatedly been observed within the Corridor area as are Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*) thought to have crossed from the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and still within the Corridor moving between Lower and Kamiti sections. Thanks to additional funding a new (temporary) forest officer (Joseph Ngaira) has been brought on board to assist with general forest related activities as well as monitoring growth and survival rates of seedlings in project areas. Other interventions are as highlighted below.

- Education and awareness

- The Joint Wildlife Protection Team
- Marania Wildlife Guards
- The Horse Patrol Team
- The Elephant Corridor
- Meetings and workshops

The report covers MKT activities for the period 30<sup>th</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Reports were provided by the following employees: Maurice Thure<sup>2</sup> on all activities pertaining to *the northern sector*; Edwin Kinyanjui<sup>3</sup> on interventions by the *Joint Wildlife Protection Team*<sup>4</sup> of Mount Kenya; Humphrey Munene on *tree planting and reforestation* as well as *education related activities*. Maurice Nyaligu<sup>5</sup> provided a summary of *policy related issues* by the *KFWG*<sup>6</sup>. Site specific northern sector reports are as per the following; the *Marania Wildlife Guards*<sup>7</sup>, the *Elephant Corridor Team*<sup>8</sup>, and the *Horse Patrol Team*<sup>9</sup>. The October 2014 report was compiled by Maurice Nyaligu.

<sup>1</sup> Scientific nomenclature throughout this report is per the IUCN RedList [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

<sup>2</sup> Maurice Thure heads and supervises the Trust's northern based field sector teams

<sup>3</sup> Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure is the Trust's senior community wildlife officer and head of the Joint Wildlife Protection Team (JWPT)

<sup>4</sup> The JWPT is comprised of MKT scouts: Dominic Gitonga, Charles Nyaga, George Mwenda, Francis Wachira and Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure as well as two KWS rangers - Ali Ahmed and Odhiambo D.

<sup>5</sup> Maurice Nyaligu works for MKT as the programme officer

<sup>6</sup> Kenya Forest Working Group is a consultative stakeholder forum on forest specific and interrelated issues in the country

<sup>7</sup> The Marania Wildlife Guards is a team composed of Elijah Kipsang, Julius Mutuma Kalonga, Joseph Gitonga, Paul Kithinji and Henry Mutwiri

<sup>8</sup> The Elephant Corridor Team comprises Robert Murega, Charles Gitonga, Mari Weru and Jasper Muthuri

<sup>9</sup> The following individuals make up the Horse Patrol Team: Joseph Michubu, Pius Mutuma, Samuel Gikunda Japhet and Martin Murugu Gachienja

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Programme related observations, interventions and activities for October are highlighted below:

- Elephant mortality incidents
- The rescue of a baby Elephant in the Corridor
- Illegal logging in the National Reserve
- Snaring of wildlife, wildlife mortalities, poacher hideouts, animal sightings and related incidents
- Incidents of arrests and apprehensions
- Forest fires, charcoal burning, illegal honey extraction, illegal water intake, other forms of illegal activities and habitat destruction
- Elephant Corridor fence intrusion destruction and manipulation
- Environmental education and awareness
- Tree planting and reforestation
  - Karuri forest block A
  - Karuri forest block B
  - Irangi forest block
- Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG) meeting.

### 1.1 Programme patrol and field activity intervention areas

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

- *Elephant Corridor Fencing Team* - Length and breadth of the Elephant Corridor
- *Marania Wildlife Guards* - Marania forest, Kimbo area, Mlima Dinga area, Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu area, Elephant Corridor, Mlima Suruwa, Kiwanja ya Dyer, Mlima Ngaita and the Lower Dinga area
- *Horse Patrol Team (HPT)* - Emburi area, Marania River side, Solo camp area, School of Adventure area, Mlima Ngaita area, Watch Tower area, Marania forest and Kisima farm/Emburi farm boundary
- *Joint Wildlife Protection Team (JWPT)* - Ruthumbi forest area and parts of the immediate vicinity
- *Field Coordinator* - Ontulili forest block and parts of Buuri district on aspects related to tree planting and reforestation work and Tharaka Nithi County on education and awareness.

## 2. PROJECT UPDATES

### 2.1 Elephant mortality incidents

Two elephant mortality cases were reported this month by the Marania Wildlife Guards. The first reported incident on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October was that of a male elephant (40 to 45 years) which apparently died of natural causes along River Kathita following a suspected confrontation with another male along the steep river banks. This incident occurred in the Cefa area of the National Reserve along waypoint N 00<sup>0</sup>01'20.8" E 037<sup>0</sup>29'37.1". KWS Meru station rangers managed to respond on time and retrieved both tusks following a lead by community herders. The second mortality incident was reported by the Marania Wildlife Guards on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October just two days later. The adult female elephant estimated at 35years of age was found in the Kirukuru area of Muecheene forest along waypoint N 00<sup>0</sup>01'24.7" E 037<sup>0</sup>30'05.0" with both tusks missing. Cause of death was spearing (poisoned), and the carcass was estimated at three days from the time of death. This is the third elephant fatality recorded in this particular area in less than four months. KWS,

Lewa and MKT have intensified efforts and made notable and successful arrests but the area is still a high risk zone and our strengthening of our collaboration between the organisations is planned to continue.

### 2.2 The rescue of baby Elephant in the Corridor

This month, an elephant calf was rescued through coordinated efforts by KWS, Lewa and MKT field based security teams. On 16<sup>th</sup> of October at about 0730hrs, workers from Marania farm



escorting farm cattle to graze came across a lone young orphaned male elephant about six to eight months old at the Marania Corridor along waypoint N00°04'30.1" E037°27'31.8". The young elephant was rescued and taken to Lewa Conservancy where plans for an immediate airlift to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in Nairobi were organized. It is suspected that the calf's mother could be the adult female slaughtered in the Kimbo area in September by poachers (*see September report*).

### 2.3 Illegal logging in the National Reserve

This October, cases of illegal logging were reported by the JWPT and the Marania Wildlife Guards. Logging was across species; a number of unidentified indigenous trees, Red cedar (*Juniperus procera*), Rosewood (*Hagenia abyssinica*), Cypress (*Cupressus lusitanica*) Camphor (*Ocotea usambarensis*) and Podo (*Podocarpus spp.*) were all affected.

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1550hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Several Red Cedar posts recovered from two suspects ( <i>see arrests</i> )	S 00°04'24.9" E 037°31'44.2"	
2.	7 <sup>th</sup> October 1350hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One fresh Podo tree chopped and milled at site using a power saw. Timber missing	S 00°07'47.3" E 037°32'55.2"	
3.	9 <sup>th</sup> October 1722hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree chopped using an axe for suspected use as firewood	S 00°09'35.4" E 037°36'34.8"	
4.	10 <sup>th</sup> October 1149hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Loggers leave behind a smoldering fire after splitting Red Cedar fencing posts	N 00°02'18.6" E 037°27'09.1"	
	10 <sup>th</sup> October 1159hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several Red Cedars discovered split for use as fencing posts	N 00°02'07.3" E 037°27'13.2"	
	10 <sup>th</sup> October 1230hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	A number of Red Cedars found chopped for use as fencing posts	N 00°02'10.6" E 037°27'10.2"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
5.	15 <sup>th</sup> October 1448hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One Camphor tree found chopped using a chainsaw and resultant timber missing	S 00°09'41.8" E 037°33'66.5"	
	15 <sup>th</sup> October	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One unidentified indigenous tree found cut and split using a chainsaw	S 00°10'22.2" E 037°34'18.6"	
6.	21 <sup>st</sup> October 1620hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One 'Mukaragat' tree found chopped using an axe for suspected use as firewood	S 00°09'25.7" E 037°35'50.9"	
	21 <sup>st</sup> October 1816hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A suspect manages to escape on being ambushed chopping down an unidentified indigenous tree	S 00°09'35.1" E 037°35'56.9"	
7.	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1330hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members recover 4 Red Cedar posts from a suspect ( <i>see arrests</i> )	S 00°03'22.3" E 037°31'54.8"	
8.	25 <sup>th</sup> October 0956hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	80 Red Cedars found chopped using power saws near the Kambogo water intake for use as fencing posts	N 00°02'41.1" E 037°27'34.2"	
	25 <sup>th</sup> October 0957hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	A number of Red Cedars found chopped for suspected use as fencing posts	N 00°02'05.4" E 037°27'06.3"	
9.	31 <sup>st</sup> October 0844hrs	Kiwanja ya Dyer	Marania Wildlife Guards	A Rosewood reportedly chopped by a section of the community is found abandoned	N 00°02'53.3" E 037°26'09.9"	

## 2.4 Snaring of wildlife, wildlife mortalities, poacher hideouts, animal sightings and related incidents

These and interrelated incidents were reported by all field based teams this October. These incidents are tabulated below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> October 0914hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One lame Zebra ( <i>Equus quagga burchellii</i> ) observed in a grazing herd of five	N 00°03'20.5" E 037°24'04.7"	
	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1256hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An illegal hideout complete with Maize flour and cooking utensils found abandoned	S 00°04'16.3" E 037°30'26.4"	
	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1409hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One snare designed to entrap a Suni ( <i>Nesotragus moschatus</i> ) found and immobilized	S 00°04'15.1" E 037°30'59.0"	
	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1428hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A suspected poacher /illegal loggers hideout discovered	S 00°04'17.4" E 037°31'16.5"	
	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1443hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A large partly immobilized elephant snare found and destroyed	S 00°04'19.8" E 037°31'25.7"	
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 1022hrs	Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	Fresh Leopard ( <i>Panthera pardus</i> ) foot prints along a path noted	N 00°03'31.6" E 037°27'17.4"	
3.	4 <sup>th</sup> October 1359hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A Colobus ( <i>Colobus guereza</i> ) monkey skin is found near a poachers' fireplace	S 00°06'48.1" E 037°32'08.4"	
4.	9 <sup>th</sup> October 1030hrs	Watch Tower area	Horse Patrol Team	A single wire snare capable of entrapping medium sized wildlife found and immobilized	N 00°03'15.8" E 037°23'43.8"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
	9 <sup>th</sup> October 1032hrs	Watch Tower area	Horse Patrol Team	A nylon snare set along an animal path and capable of snaring medium sized antelopes found and immobilized	N 00°03'14.1" E 037°23'44.1"	
	9 <sup>th</sup> October 1101hrs	Watch Tower area	Horse Patrol Team	A nylon rope snare set along an animal path and hidden in a thicket found and destroyed	N 00°03'12.8" E 037°23'44.5"	
	9 <sup>th</sup> October 1640hrs	Elephant Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	A fresh female adult Waterbuck ( <i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i> ) carcass (about ten days old) discovered. No external injuries on body. Cause of death unknown	N 00°04'29.0" E 037°27'22.8"	
5.	10 <sup>th</sup> October 1131hrs	Mlima Ngaita area	Horse Patrol Team	A nylon snare set along an animal path found and immobilized	N 00°03'23.8" E 037°24'40.1"	
	10 <sup>th</sup> October 1513hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An old snare designed to entrap Suni and other mammals found and immobilized	S 00°04'12.1" E 037°31'42.1"	
6.	11 <sup>th</sup> October 1000hrs	School of Adventure area	Horse Patrol Team	A lame Zebra (hind left limb) observed in a feeding herd of six	N 00°02'58.9" E 037°24'12.1"	
7.	12 <sup>th</sup> October 1017hrs	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	The carcass remains of a Serval cat ( <i>Leptailurus serval</i> ) found by team during patrol	N 00°06'51.9" E 037°28'20.8"	
8.	13 <sup>th</sup> October 0921hrs	Mlima Suruwa	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members find and immobilize one medium sized animal wire snare set along an animal path	N 00°03'37.5" E 037°27'28.6"	
	13 <sup>th</sup> October 0925hrs	Emburi /Kisima farms boundary	Horse Patrol Team	A carcass of a male adult Red Duiker ( <i>Cephalophus natalensis</i> ) - about a day old is discovered	N 00°03'39.6" E 037°23'47.3"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
9.	14 <sup>th</sup> October 1422hrs	Mlima Ngaita	Marania Wildlife Guards	A lame Zebra with a swollen (left hind limb) observed grazing in a lugga	N 00°04'00.7" E 037°42'18.4"	
10.	15 <sup>th</sup> October 0830hrs	Marania forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Suspected poachers from Ntirimiti chase a Waterbuck from the Reserve and kill it in a cattle boma using spears and machetes. Intestines recovered buried in a farm and arrests made ( <i>see arrests</i> )	N 00°04'29.8" E 037°27'57.0"  N 00°24'29.8" E 037°27'57.0"	
11.	16 <sup>th</sup> October 0853hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One wire medium sized snare found and immobilized	N 00°02'51.8" E 037°25'39.9"	
12.	18 <sup>th</sup> October 1003hrs	School of Adventure	Horse Patrol Team	One lame Zebra (hind limb) observed in a grazing herd of thirteen	N 00°03'15.8" E 037°25'40.3"	
	18 <sup>th</sup> October 1049hrs	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	An illegal access point into the Corridor discovered and sealed by the team	N 00°08'00.3" E 037°28'14.5"	
13.	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1249hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Fresh human and dog prints sighted during patrol	S 00°03'24.6" E 037°32'14.4"	
14.	25 <sup>th</sup> October 1212hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A cave suspected to be in use by various criminal elements is found during patrol	S 00°03'02.8" E 037°32'17.9"	
15.	28 <sup>th</sup> October 1025hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Seven active snares found and immobilized	S 00°03'11.1" E 037°32'01.4"	
	28 <sup>th</sup> October 1122hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	A fresh carcass of a Waterbuck found in an open field. Cause of death natural	N 00°03'21.9" E 037°24'08.6"	
16.	31 <sup>st</sup> October 0737hrs	Lower Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	An abandoned Common Grey Duiker ( <i>Sylvicapra grimmia</i> ) juvenile found by the team	N 00°08'13.1" E 037°27'43.0"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
	31 <sup>st</sup> October 0955hrs	Mlima Ngaita	Horse Patrol Team	A lame Zebra (hind left limb) observed in a herd of seventeen grazing Zebras	N 00°02'30.9" E 037°24'45.4"	

## 2.5 Incidents of arrests and apprehensions

A number of suspects were arrested for various offences by the JWPT and the Marania Wildlife Guards. Details of these cases are summarized below:

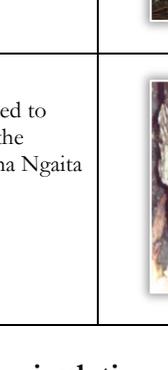
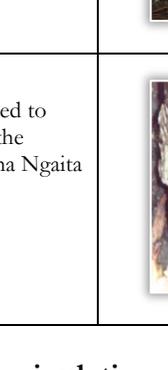
#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	1 <sup>st</sup> October 1550hrs	S 00°04'24.9" E 037°31'44.2"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two suspected poachers: Samuel Kithinji Mbui and Julius Mutugi Nandia are arrested in possession of 13 Red Cedar posts, 8 poisoned arrowheads, 1 bow, 2 arrow sticks, a poisoned arrow head and 4 pieces of elephant tusks. Booked at Meru Police Station, OB: No.: 67/02/10/2014	
2.	2 <sup>nd</sup> October 1237hrs	N 00°12'95.2" E 037°46'95.2"	Kamiti Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	Two men from a group of four are arrested carrying bags of illegally harvested grass. Martin Kagane and Martin Gikunda were booked at Subuiga Police Station OB: No.: 11/2/10/2014	
3.	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2100hrs	-	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An ambush is laid leading to the arrest of Wilson Kiambi Justus with a chainsaw. One other suspect manages to escape. Suspect booked at Nkubu Police Station OB: No.: 26/08/10/2014	
4.	15 <sup>th</sup> October 0830hrs	N 00°04'29.8" E 037°27'57.0"	Ntirimiti area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Two women: Jeddy Kirumba and Bridget Kirumba are arrested in	

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
					possession of 10kg of bushmeat and Waterbuck intestines. Booked at Subuiga Police Station OB: No.: 11/15/10/2014	
5.	23 <sup>rd</sup> October 1330hrs	S 00°03'22.3" E 037°31'54.8"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members manage to arrest Charles Kithinji Kiriimi in possession of 4 Red Cedar posts. Booked at Githongo Police Station OB: No.: 10/23/10/2014	
6.	27 <sup>th</sup> October 1800hrs	S 00°09'03.7" E 037°33'26.4"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A successful ambush is laid leading to the arrest of John Kimathi Sabare in possession of a spear, machete, 2 Suni (5kg) and 5 string snares. Booked at Nkubu Police Station OB: No.: 56/27/10/2014. Six of his twelve dogs shot	

## 2.6 Forest fires, charcoal burning, illegal honey extraction, illegal water intake, other forms of illegal activities and habitat destruction

Several of the above cases were reported and despite the October rains, some fire incidents occurred in the northern areas. These and other related incidents are summarized in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	6 <sup>th</sup> October 1055hrs	N 00°03'41.2" E 037°27'15.1"	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several Blue gum trees ( <i>Eucalyptus spp.</i> ) seen destroyed by 13 elephants	
2.	7 <sup>th</sup> October 0922hrs	N 00°04'90.8" E 037°24'14.8"	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	8 elephants seen pulling down an unidentified number of indigenous trees	
3.	10 <sup>th</sup> October 0944hrs	N 00°03'05.6" E 037°24'06.1"	Mlima Ngaita	Horse Patrol Team	At least five Red Cedar trees noted to have been debarked by Baboons ( <i>Papio anubis</i> )	
	10 <sup>th</sup> October 0945hrs	N 00°02'54.5" E 037°26'09.9"	Kiwanja ya Dyer	Marania Wildlife Guards	A fire started by illegal honey harvesters at the base of a Rosewood is extinguished by the team and KWS rangers	

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
4.	15 <sup>th</sup> October 1515hrs	S 00°09'47.1" E 037°33'37.1"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover an illegal water intake along River Mutonga	
5.	18 <sup>th</sup> October 1038hrs	N 00°04'20.3" E 037°27'28.1"	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several men, women and children caught collecting grass in the Corridor putting themselves at risk with elephants.	
6.	21 <sup>st</sup> October 1041hrs	N 00°04'05.9" E 037°27'36.6"	Mlima Suruwa	Marania Wildlife Guards	A number of Cypress trees noted to have been debarked by elephants	
7.	25 <sup>th</sup> October 1154hrs	S 00°03'05.1" E 037°32'17.1"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An old disused charcoal kiln is found and destroyed	
	25 <sup>th</sup> October 1244hrs	S 00°03'03.8" E 037°32'20.7"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One active charcoal kiln found and destroyed by team members	
8.	26 <sup>th</sup> October 0932hrs	N 00°04'29.8" E 037°27'31.4"	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	A group of ten men is caught cutting grass in the Corridor but manage to escape on being approached	
9.	28 <sup>th</sup> October 0950hrs	S 00°03'03.8" E 037°32'20.2"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A fresh charcoal kiln is found and destroyed. Charcoal missing	
10.	30 <sup>th</sup> October 1159hrs	N 00°02'19.2" E 037°24'16.0"	Solo Camp area	Horse Patrol Team	Illegal honey harvesting noted to take place on the slopes of Mlima Ngaita	

## 2.7 Elephant Corridor fence intrusion, destruction and manipulation

Although no arrests were made, several intruders were seen attempting /entering the Elephant Corridor area this October. These incidents are highlighted in bullet form below:

- 8<sup>th</sup> October (0730hrs) - the Kamiti Corridor fencer discovers a Blue gum tree illegally logged by unknown persons along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>13'58.6", E 037<sup>o</sup>47'21.1"
- 15<sup>th</sup> October (1035hrs) Lower Corridor - MKT fencer came across grass illegally harvested by unknown persons along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>08'09.8", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'31.1"
- 15<sup>th</sup> October (1120hrs) Kamiti Corridor - a pile of illegally harvested grass discovered along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>07'39.7", E 037<sup>o</sup>28'14.7"
- 16<sup>th</sup> October (0840hrs) - the fencer attached at the Lower Corridor observes six women, four men and five children illegally cutting grass along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>07'43.7", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'58.7" they all managed to escape upon being sighted
- 16<sup>th</sup> October (1620hrs) Lower Corridor - grass illegally harvested by unknown persons along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>07'51.7", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'32.3" is found piled ready for collection
- 19<sup>th</sup> October (1728hrs) - Kamiti Corridor fencer discovers one Blue gum tree illegally harvested by unknown persons along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>08'04.4", E 037<sup>o</sup>28'40.7"
- 20<sup>th</sup> October (1011hrs) - the Lower Corridor fencer observes several elephants destroying soil bags which had been placed along gulleys to mitigate soil erosion near the underpass along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>08'07.9", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'55.8". The elephants tore up the bags and spread the soil around
- 20<sup>th</sup> October (1106hrs) - a number of recently rehabilitated gulleys are washed away by the recent heavy rains along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>08'10.4", E 037<sup>o</sup>28'07.3"
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October (0745hrs) - unknown persons illegally collect grass at the Lower Corridor along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>07'52.3", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'33.1"
- 26<sup>th</sup> October (1535hrs) - the Kamiti Corridor MKT fencer observes several persons entering the Corridor along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>08'05.5", E 037<sup>o</sup>25'14.2" but is unable to make arrests
- 27<sup>th</sup> October (1552hrs) - the Lower Corridor fencer came across illegally collected grass along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>08'05.7", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'28.0"
- 28<sup>th</sup> October (0849hrs) - the Kamiti Corridor fencer came across illegally collected grass by unknown persons along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>07'45.4", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'54.0"
- 30<sup>th</sup> October (0853hrs) - the Lower Corridor fencer came across illegally collected grass by unknown persons along waypoint N 00<sup>o</sup>07'51.4", E 037<sup>o</sup>27'31.1".

## 2.8 Environmental education and awareness

This month's environmental education initiatives were implemented in Tharaka Nithi County where seven schools were visited and a total of over 1,000 pupils engaged. The choice of schools is based



on localities within the immediate vicinity of the Mount Kenya forest blocks, due to the relevance of the program in creating awareness on the need to conserve and protect the country's water catchments. The following schools opened up to the exercise which commenced on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014: Gituja Primary School, Gituja Secondary School, Kagongo Primary School, Iriga DEB Primary School, Kalewa Primary School, Kalewa Secondary School and Giampampo Primary School. During the outreach, maintenance of the on-going construction of the Mount Kenya full game proof fence by Rhino Ark and

other partners was brought to the pupils' attention. Students were implored to appreciate the fence as a conflict mitigation tool as well as an ecosystem management strategy. As in previous times, the outreach was implemented through a partnership with KWS. The KWS education officer took time to shed some highlights on the new Wildlife Act (2013). By enlightening the pupils on provisions of

the Act, they are made aware of the consequences of being caught on the wrong side of the law as far as wildlife related crimes are concerned. Hopefully, the same message will resonate with their parents and guardians too.

## 2.9 Tree planting and reforestation



October marked the proper onset of the short but heavy rainy season and planting of seedlings begun in earnest in the Karuri forest block of Mount Kenya. This seasons rains started early and higher than average rainfall has been recorded in various localities in the region. In total, 25,940 tree seedlings have been planted in the three rehabilitation areas under the Trust's reforestation programme. This account is elaborated further below:

### *Karuri forest block A*

This particular section of the forest block is being rehabilitated with proceeds from the 10to4 Mountain Bike Challenge; some 20,940 tree seedlings have so far been planted. Out of these, 15,000 seedlings were planted in newly cultivated 15 Ha areas while the remaining seedlings were replanted in areas where previous seasons' seedlings did not survive. Finlays Ibis Farm donated 10,000 Red Cedar seedlings. Transportation of seedlings was facilitated by the Kenya Wildlife Service lorry which managed to ferry all 10,000 seedlings at a go. The rest of the seedlings (10,940) were bought from three women groups supported by the Trust as per the breakdown below:

- Kianjogu Mwanzo Mwema Women Group: 4,300 seedlings
- Ontulili Forest Women Group: 5,340 seedlings
- Gatinka Tumaini Women Group: 1,300 seedlings

### *Karuri forest block B*

This has been ongoing for some time now. However, with the support of the forester Ontulili forest station, an additional area is to be dedicated for rehabilitation in the expansive Karuri open fields through the generous support received from Safarilink. 5,000 seedlings purchased from the Gatinka Tumaini Women Group were planted in the area this season. The group was set up and equipped to nurture tree seedlings for regular planting through the annual Safarilink support.

### *Irangi forest block*

In the Irangi Forest block (Magacha area); rehabilitation has been ongoing for close to ten years albeit intermittently. MKT works with women groups in adjacent neighbouring communities to nurture tree seedlings that are later planted in the degraded sites of the Irangi forest block. As a result of these efforts, over 150ha of degraded natural forest have been rehabilitated with new indigenous trees mainly through a grant support from UNDP's<sup>10</sup> COMPACT<sup>11</sup> initiative and previous



<sup>10</sup> United Nations Development Programme

<sup>11</sup> Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation

support from Fooks Trust. Following the end of this funding a few years back, MKT continued planting in the area but on a limited scale. Under a new collaboration with CHASE<sup>12</sup> AFRICA, MKT is able to continue planting in the area over the next year. 3,500 seedlings are to be planted this year and additional 7,000 seedlings over next year. So far the seedlings for this year have been planted in an area allocated to Magacha/Wamiti Women Group by the Forest Officer in Irangi Forest Station.

## 2.10 Community Health Service Project

In October the CHS team visited the following areas, with the assistance of Timau General Hospital Locum Nurse for Meru County and Karau and Kairuri locum nurse for Embu County:-

Meru County :- Gatinka, Kiambogo and Mutarakwa

Embu County :- Ndunduri, and Kagumori

### Community Health Services Outreach for the month of October

Dates	Area	Curative	FP patients	Cervical Screening	HTC Services
7/10/2014	Gatinka	45	15	0	21
8/10/2014	Kiambogo	54	20	0	24
9/10/2014	Mutarakwa	63	19	0	39
14/10/2014	Ndunduri	29	3	27	24
15/10/2014	Ndunduri	18	8	16	27
16/10/2014	Kagumori	87	4	1	30
17/10/2014	Kagumori	48	9	15	35
	<b>Total</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>200</b>

## 3. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

### 3.1 Kenya Forest Working Group meeting

This month's monthly KFWG<sup>13</sup> meeting focused on amongst other topical issues, a discussion on the current status of the *Natural Resources Benefit Sharing Bill (2014)*. This is the first time a Bill of this nature and magnitude has been proposed in Kenya. The motion was sponsored by the organization APSEA through the National Senate (*Kenya Gazette Supplement 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014*). The proposed Bill contains clauses on institutional arrangements and benefit sharing across all natural resource sectors, including petroleum, forests, wildlife and water. MKT was represented by its programme officer at the meeting held at the East African Wildlife Society on the 31<sup>st</sup> October. An update on tree planting and ongoing reforestation work in the Irangi and Karuri forest blocks of Mount Kenya was highlighted and was very well received. Other issues of note emanating from the meeting include a Mobile Forest Monitoring System rolled out by the KFWG



<sup>12</sup> Community Health and Sustainable Environment

<sup>13</sup> The Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG) is a consultative forum of like minded stakeholders within the Kenyan Forest sector who congregate once a month to discuss topical and emerging issues within the Kenyan Forest sector and landscape. The gathering takes place once every last Friday of the month at the East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) in Nairobi.

secretariat; the system will enable all stakeholders to make repositories on forest updates via a shared internet based platform as well as continued policy interventions across several fronts at the National level.