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MONTHLY PROGRAMME ACTIVITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2014

SUMMARY

The report covers MKT activities for the period 31st August to 30th September 2014. One Elephant (*Loxodonta africana africana*) mortality incident was reported by our field teams this September. There was an immediate response to the incident through joint law enforcement measures by the Lewa security, KWS and MKT.



- Updates on fencing initiatives
- School education and awareness initiatives
- The Joint Wildlife Protection Team
- Marania Wildlife Guards
- The Horse Patrol Team
- The Elephant Corridor Team
- Updates on fire emergency response measures

Reports were provided by the following employees: Humphrey Munene¹ on *education and awareness*, *Mt. Kenya fence initiatives* and the *Ntiritimi fence*. Northern sector reports were provided by the following; the *Marania Wildlife Guards*²; the *Horse Patrol Team*³, the *Elephant Corridor Team*⁴ as well as the northern area supervisor (Maurice Thure) on interrelated aspects on security and teams. Ruthumbi Forest sector updates were consolidated by the *Joint Wildlife Protection Team*⁵ led by Edwin Kinyanjui Nguni. The September 2014 report was compiled by Maurice Nyaligu⁶.

¹ Humphrey Munene is the Trust's field coordinator

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

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

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

⁵ JWPT is composed of Edwin Kinyanjui Nguni, Dominic Gitonga, Charles Nyaga, George Mwenda, and Francis Wachira.

⁶ Mr. Nyaligu is the Trust's Programme Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

Field and project based activities elaborated upon in the September 2014 report are:

- Education and awareness sensitization activities in schools
- Fencing initiatives
 - Updates on the Ntirimiti short fence
 - The Mt. Kenya fence initiative - Phase II updates and site progress
- Elephant mortality incident
- Other wildlife mortalities and related wildlife observations
- Illegal logging and logging related activities
- Snares, suspected poacher activities, Tsetse infestations and related incidents
- Elephant related human wildlife conflict incidents
- Interventions and observations within the Elephant Corridor and the immediate vicinity
- Ambushes, arrests and apprehensions
- Fire training and forest fire incidents
- Illegal charcoal kilns, illegal beehives, charcoal burning and habitat destruction (clearance)
- Elephant collaring on Mount Kenya

1.1 Programme patrol and operational areas

The following project activity areas were patrolled by MKT's field based teams this September. These are:

- *Elephant Corridor Team* - the breadth and width of the Elephant Corridor
- *Marania Wildlife Guards* - Mlima Dinga area, Elephant Corridor, Mlima Ngaita, Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu area, Mlima Suruwa area, Kimbo area, Marania forest, Cefa area, Kisima area, Muchene forest, Mlima Chui area, Rutundu area and the Forest Ndogo on the northern side of Mount Kenya National Reserve
- *Horse Patrol Team (HPT)* - School of Adventure area, Emburi area, Mlima Ngaita area, Marania river side and Solo camp area in the immediate vicinity
- *Joint Wildlife Protection Team (JWPT)* - Ruthumbi forest area
- *Field Coordinator* - Ntirimiti and Tharaka Nithi on fencing related activities and the Sirimon area of Meru County on school environmental education outreach activities.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

2.1 Education and awareness sensitization activities in schools

Officers from KWS and MKT visited Sirimon Day Secondary School in Meru County on the 23rd September. The visit was organized by the KWS Sirimon Sector Warden as part of a joint commitment aimed at initiating changes in conservation attitudes amongst community members in the Sirimon area. The film '*Running Dry*'⁷ about the importance of catchments and forests was screened. An assessment on the student's willingness to participate in conservation activities and a follow-up question and answer session followed the film. The students present acknowledged a new appreciation of the



⁷ Courtesy of the African Environmental Film Foundation (AEFF)

importance of conserving the Mount Kenya forests. The school's principal expressed willingness to facilitate student participation in conservation activities. The most feasible conservation activity and at a minimum cost is a tree nursery which the MKT will help set up in the next few months. Seedlings grown in the nursery will be planted at their family plots while others will be planted within the school compound.

2.2 Fencing initiatives

2.2.1 Updates on the Ntirimiti short fence

The integrity a lone elephant tested the integrity of the Ntirimiti short month when he was reported to have left the National Reserve via a gate. Since improvements were instituted mid-March (*see March 2014 report*), no intrusion or voltage failure had been witnessed. On 16th September an



inspection revealed that the fence did not have sufficient power most probably due to overcast skies in the area at the beginning of September. Some unscrupulous members of the community had also tampered with an earth wire near the gate where the elephant managed to gain access. Voltage has now been restored to normal levels following repairs. Cases of sabotage by community members who directly benefit from the fence continue to be reported; in addition, there are several areas where community members jump through the fence line instead of using the gates and a strut post of a strainer assembly

was found to be cut. Eventually, water will soak through the cut part causing the whole post to rot and resulting in the strainer assembly collapsing if no remedial measures are instituted. We will have to replace the post after the rains.

2.2.2 The Mt. Kenya Fence Project - Phase II updates and site progress

Based on the recommendations of a technical assessment team last month, the joint forest implementation committee (comprising several stakeholders) visited the Mbogori area of Tharaka Nithi on the 25th of September to reassess a section of the contentious forest boundary identified during the last visit. As reported in August, construction had to be halted at the Nithi River valley following concerns that the forest boundary beacons were missing /or had been tampered with, thus necessitating the intervention of the KFS survey department. With the help of the Area Assistant Chief, and a section of the community, the missing forest boundary beacons were located while two others removed by a section of the farming community will be resurveyed by KFS later in the coming weeks.



2.3 Elephant mortality incident



On the 17th September while Lewa Conservancy were looking for suitable elephant to collar as part of their on going monitoring strategy Ian Craig spotted an elephant carcass. The Trust's Marania Wildlife Guards and the Elephant search team from Lewa Wildlife Conservancy were in Kimbo area and went to look for the dead elephant which was found to be female elephant carcass (25 to 30 years) inside a bamboo forest zone about 4kms

south of Kimbo community and adjacent to an allotted farm under the PELIS⁸ 'shamba' system along waypoint N 00°03'08.9" E 037°29'29.1". The fresh carcass was estimated at 2 to 3 days old from the time of mortality and even more tragically was noted to be a lactating female. She had been killed by a large spear through her ribs and both tusks were missing. The rest of the herd was not to be found though subsequent searches were mounted in order to try to help a possible orphan.

2.4 Other wildlife mortalities and related wildlife observations

Details of the September incidents are summarized in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	2 nd September 0816hrs	N 00°04'31.4" E 037°27'35.0"	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	A sickly female Waterbuck (<i>Kobus ellipsiprymnus</i>) observed walking with difficulties. Cause, not apparent.	
2.	10 th September 1040hrs	N 00°03'40.9" E 037°27'31.9"	Marania forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	A Baboon (<i>Papio anubis</i>) skull discovered by team members while on patrol. Cause of death unknown	
3.	13 th September 0905hrs	N 00°03'29.3" E 037°29'28.2"	Kimbo /Cefa area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A lame Elephant was observed a herd (cause - snares). A subsequent search for the lame elephant was unsuccessful. One of the herd had naturally deformed tusks.	
4.	14 th September 0834hrs	N 00°03'10.3" E 037°26'05.7"	Kisima /Mlima Ngaita	Marania Wildlife Guards	A fresh adult Zorilla /Striped Polecat ⁹ (<i>Ictonyx striatus</i>) carcass seen along an animal path 2km east of Mlima Ngaita. Cause of death unknown. No external body injuries	

⁸ Plantation Livelihood Enrichment System

⁹ All common and scientific names for animals based on the IUCN RedList (www.iucnredlist.org)

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
5.	25 th September 1010hrs	N 00°01'23.4" E 037°29'16.0"	Rutundu /Forest Ndogo	Marania Wildlife Guards	Blood stains suspected to be of a poached Bushbuck (<i>Tragelaphus scriptus</i>) observed. The meat had be laid out on a bed of leaves.	
	26 th September 1215hrs	-	Mlima Ngaita	Marania Wildlife Guards	Fresh Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>) prints noted during patrol	

2.5 Illegal logging and logging related activities

As summarized in the table below, all field teams reported a number of cases and incidents relating to illegal logging activities. Several tree species were affected including; Red cedar (*Juniperus procera*), Cypress (*Cupressus lusitanica*), Camphor (*Ocotea usambarensis*) and Podo (*Podocarpus spp.*).

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	1 st September 1000hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A Camphor tree (<i>Ocotea usambarensis</i>) is found cut and milled at site for suspected timber use	S 00°08'09.3" E 037°31'42.2"	
	1 st September 1056hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One unidentified indigenous tree found chopped for suspected use as fencing posts	S 00°09'23.9" E 037°35'39.8"	
	1 st September 1233hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One Camphor tree discovered logged using a chainsaw and the resultant timber missing. Several other trees damaged while the Camphor was falling	S 00°09'31.9" E 037°35'40.4"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
	1 st September 1250hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A Camphor tree is found chopped using a chainsaw and timber missing	S 00°09'01.1" E 037°36'27.8"	
2.	8 th September 1713hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An indigenous tree (<i>Muringiti</i>) found cut using an axe and hewn for use as fencing posts	S 00°08'08.1" E 037°33'33.2"	
3.	9 th September 0923hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Logging of Cypress (<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i>) by debarking for firewood use. Trees are debarked from the base and left to die slowly	N 00°04'05.7" E 037°28'30.2"	
4.	10 th September 1845hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members find an unidentified indigenous tree found chopped for use as firewood	S 00°07'11.6" E 037°33'07.2"	
5.	14 th September 1607hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	At least three Podo (<i>Podocarpus spp.</i>) trees found chopped using a power saw. Timber missing	S 00°08'05.7" E 037°31'52.4"	
6.	15 th September 1220hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Huge trunks of cut Podo trees found milled on-site using power saws with the resultant timber missing	S 00°08'23.5" E 037°32'37.0"	
7.	17 th September 0105hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	The team attempts to trace sounds of a chainsaw logging without success as they are chased by elephant	S 00°08'18.9" E 037°33'09.3"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
8.	18 th September 1636hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree found chopped using an axe for suspected use as firewood	S 00°09'28.4" E 037°35'06.2"	
	18 th September 1650hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two Camphor trees found chopped and milled at site. Resultant timber missing	S 00°09'33.0" E 037°35'09.6"	
	18 th September 1741hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree found chopped with an axe for suspected firewood use	S 00°09'18.1" E 037°35'42.1"	
	18 th September 1751hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One unidentified indigenous tree found chopped using an axe for suspected fuel wood use	S 00°09'13.3" E 037°35'38.7"	
9.	22 nd September 1120hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Wild Olive (<i>Olea africana</i>) trees chopped for suspected charcoal burning near a PELIS plantation	N 00°02'00.6" E 037°29'81.8"	
	22 nd September 1230hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several Red Cedar (<i>Juniperus procera</i>) trees logged adjacent to a PELIS plantation	N 00°02'38.2" E 037°28'55.0"	
	22 nd September 1328hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A Red Cedar trunk is found chopped and hewn with an axe	S 00°04'08.4" E 037°30'36.0"	
	22 nd September 1345hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Six pieces of Red Cedar posts are recovered following an arrest (see arrests)	S 00°04'08.8" E 037°30'24.0"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
	22 nd September 1422hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members find three Red Cedar trees chopped using axes for use as fencing posts. An axe, a sledge hammer and a metal pan recovered	S 00°04'22.2" E 037°30'16.4"	
	22 nd September 1534hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Six Red Cedar posts recovered from a suspect (<i>see arrests</i>)	S 00°04'08.7" E 037°30'30.9"	
10.	24 th September 1136hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A pile of firewood is found beside a tree from trees chopped within the vicinity	S 00°08'20.2" E 037°33'44.2"	
	24 th September 1208hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two Podo trees found chopped and milled at site using a power saw. Timber missing	S 00°07'53.2" E 037°32'58.7"	
	24 th September 1215hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	At least four Podo trees found chopped and milled for timber use. Timber missing	S 00°07'55.0" E 037°33'00.5"	
	24 th September 1815hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree found chopped for suspected firewood use	S 00°09'35.7" E 037°35'54.5"	

2.6 Snares, suspected poacher activities, Tsetse fly infestations and related incidents

A number of cases relating to the snaring of wildlife, Tsetse fly infestation and related poacher signs 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.	1 st September 1030hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members come across a Tsetse (<i>Glossina fusca</i>) infested area	N 00°02'31.1" E 037°22'32.0"	
2.	2 nd September 0818hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	A lame Zebra (<i>Equus quagga burchellii</i>) (right hind limb) observed in a feeding herd of four	N 00°02'40.0" E 037°28'28.5"	
	2 nd September 1315hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Suspected poacher footprints and dog prints encountered during patrol	S 00°09'33.0" E 037°35'09.6"	
3.	3 rd September 1337hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover and destroy one wire snare	S 00°05'58.0" E 037°32'22.1"	
	3 rd September 1342hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One old snare found and immobilized by the team	S 00°05'57.1" E 037°32'24.6"	
	3 rd September 1350hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover and destroy a hideout in use by suspected poachers. Sleeping sacks and cooking pots found and destroyed	S 00°05'52.9" E 037°32'32.6"	
4.	8 th September 1652hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A concealed route suspected to be in use by would be poachers /loggers found	S 00°08'17.7" E 037°33'56.9"	
	8 th September 1706hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An old snare fore elephant is immobilized	S 00°08'17.3" E 037°33'56.5"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
5.	9 th September 1315hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One old snare found and immobilized	S 00°04'47.6" E 037°32'47.4"	
6.	12 th September 1123hrs	Marania River side	Horse Patrol Team	Team members discover and destroy one snare set for small mammals.	N 00°03'35.1" E 037°24'31.2"	
	12 th September 1335hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A snare is discovered and immobilized by the team	S 00°03'22.9" E 037°31'14.1"	
	12 th September 1345hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One live snare noted to have caught a Suni (<i>Nesotragus moschatus</i>) that died and decayed	S 00°03'19.7" E 037°31'07.8"	
	12 th September 1722hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One abandoned makeshift hut found and destroyed	S 00°03'24.4" E 037°31'32.0"	
7.	13 th September 0727hrs	Solo Camp area	Horse Patrol Team	A lame Zebra (right limb) is observed in a feeding herd of thirty one	N 00°02'03.1" E 037°23'55.6"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
8.	16 th September 1702hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An old snare found and immobilized by the team	S 00°04'11.5" E 037°32'43.1"	
9.	22 nd September 1045hrs	Mlima Ngaita	Horse Patrol Team	One lame Zebra (right fore limb) observed in a feeding herd of eleven	N 00°02'50.2" E 037°24'26.9"	
	22 nd September 1112hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members find and immobilize an old snare	S 00°04'02.5" E 037°32'54.3"	
	22 nd September 1135hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One inactive snare found and immobilized along a footpath	S 00°03'58.9" E 037°32'24.0"	
	22 nd September 1224hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	At least one snare is found and immobilized by team members	S 00°04'10.9" E 037°31'40.5"	
	22 nd September 1238hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An old snare abandoned after poachers managed to ensnare a Bushbuck is destroyed	S 00°04'07.1" E 037°31'23.8"	
	22 nd September 1300hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One lame Zebra seen by the team. Suspected case of snaring	S 00°04'09.1" E 037°31'03.7"	
	23 rd September 0924hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One wire snare capable of entrapping large mammals found and destroyed	N 00°03'17.8" E 037°23'39.0"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
	23 rd September 0944hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	A nylon rope snare targeting small sized wildlife found and destroyed	N 00°03'11.9" E 037°23'44.5"	
	23 rd September 0950hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One nylon snare capable of entrapping small mammals found and destroyed	N 00°03'12.1" E 037°23'45.1"	
	23 rd September 0950hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	A fresh Red Duiker (<i>Cephalophus natalensis</i>) carcass is found hanged on a Red Cedar tree	N 00°03'12.3" E 037°25'44.9"	
11.	24 th September 1208hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two old snares found and immobilized by the team during patrol	S 00°07'54.2" E 037°32'58.7"	
12.	25 th September 1120hrs	Rutundu /Forest Ndogo	Marania Wildlife Guards	One nylon snare capable of entrapping medium sized wildlife found and destroyed	N 00°01'24.3" E 037°29'18.2"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
	25 th September 1322hrs	Rutundu /Forest Ndogo	Marania Wildlife Guards	Two nylon traps found along a path leading to Kathita River	N 00°00'13.0" E 037°28'48.9"	
	25 th September 1350hrs	Rutundu /Forest Ndogo	Marania Wildlife Guards	Two huge caves suspected to be in use by poachers found	N 00°00'49.9" E 037°27'37.6"	
	25 th September 1420hrs	Rutundu	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poacher hideout (cave) discovered by team	N 00°01'59.2" E 037°27'28.3"	
13.	30 th September 0946hrs	Marania River side	Horse Patrol Team	One wire snare capable of entrapping small mammals found and destroyed	N 00°03'35.3" E 037°24'30.2"	

2.7 Elephant related human wildlife conflict incidents

Elephants were reported to have invaded community farms on at least two occasions as reported by the JWPT. Details of these incidents are summarized in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	5 th September 1600hrs	S 00°09'02.9" E 037°35'27.6"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Elephants noted to have invaded and destroyed 'shambas'; maize, bananas and arrowroot crops destroyed	
2.	6 th September 1700hrs	S 00°09'56.1" E 037°36'00.0"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Elephants reported to have encroached onto people's farms necessitating an immediate response from the JWPT	

2.8 Interventions and observations within the Elephant Corridor and the immediate vicinity

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	2 nd to 16 th September on diverse times	Elephant Corridor near underpass	Elephant Corridor Fencing Team	Fence repairs undertaken in areas where gully erosion had significantly eroded a section of the fence near the underpass on the Meru - Nanyuki highway	N 00°13'55.7" E 037°46'62.1"	
2.	15 th September 1100hrs	Kamiti section	Elephant Corridor Fencing Team	An unknown people intrude into the Corridor and collect grass	N 00°12'91.9" E 037°46'90.7"	
3.	17 th September 0730hrs	Middle house Corridor area	Elephant Corridor Fencing Team	Elephants obstruct school children at the rural road crossing (proposed second underpass area) for an hour	N 00°01'03.4" E 037°30'51.0"	
4.	20 th September 1022hrs	Kamiti section	Elephant Corridor Fencing Team	Grass discovered collected from the Corridor by unknown persons	N 00°13'08.7" E 037°47'06.5"	
5.	22 nd September 1045hrs	Lower Corridor	Elephant Corridor Fencing Team	A Marania farm tractor damages a section Corridor fence at the No. 86 gate. Repairs made	N 00°05'30.8" E 037°28'05.2"	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
6.	23 rd September 1000hrs	Lower Corridor	Elephant Corridor Fencing Team	Team members come across an area illegally harvested of grass	N 00°13'98.1" E 037°46'38.2"	
7.	30 th September 1546hrs	Kamiti section	Elephant Corridor Fencing Team	An unknown people noted to have illegally harvested grass and disappeared	N 00°13'13.6" E 037°46'60.0"	

2.9 Ambushes, arrests and apprehensions

These details are as tabulated in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	16 th September 1753hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	The team lay an unsuccessful ambush targeting illegal loggers after a number of fencing posts were found tied together for recollection	S 00°04'07.6" E 037°32'06.6"	
2.	22 nd September 1345hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A suspect, John Gituma Mwamba is arrested with six pieces of Red Cedar posts. Booked at Nkubu Police Station OB: No.: 55/22/09/2014 and released on a bond of Ksh. 20,000	S 00°04'08.8" E 037°30'24.0"	
	22 nd September 1534hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One suspect: Moses Muthomi Riungu arrested ferrying six Red Cedar posts and booked at Nkubu Police Station. OB: No.: 55/22/09/2014 and bonded Ksh. 20,000	S 00°04'08.7" E 037°30'30.9"	

2.10 Fire training and forest fire incidents



This September, the Trust's field personnel took part in fire awareness and fighting drill exercise organized by the Fire Emergency Response Team of Mount Kenya at the KWS headquarters in Naro Moru. Training was conducted and facilitated by KWS. All MKT field teams were represented as were personnel from KWS and members of the community. New field firefighting equipment from the National

Government and other stakeholders including MKT were also unveiled during the exercises and drills. Part of the equipment was also tested in the field following resurgent fires from August as chronicled in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	BEARINGS	PHOTO
1.	24 th September 1356hrs	Mlima Chui area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A resurgent fire in an area thought to be completely extinguished in August is found still burning underground. This happens when large tree roots continue smoulder slowly beneath the surface. The team extinguish the remains of the fire.	N 00°00'48.0" E 037°25'58.2"	
2.	26 th September 1501hrs	Rutundu /Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A fire started by illegal honey harvesters on a Red Cedar spreads and burns a large area before being extinguished	N 00°00'46.5" E 037°28'59.5"	
3.	28 th September 1640hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members manage to extinguish a fire that had burnt about 20 hectares on the northern sections of the mountain	N 00°01'03.4" E 037°30'51.0"	
4.	30 th September 0933hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	A fire started by illegal loggers spreads burning heaps of dry Podo leaves. Team members to contain and then extinguish the fire.	N 00°02'06.1" E 037°02'06.5"	

2.11 Illegal charcoal kilns, illegal beehives, charcoal burning and habitat destruction (clearance)

Illegal charcoal burning, charcoal kilns and fuel wood collection were unearthed by the Marania Wildlife Guards as depicted in the table below:

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	8 th September 1920hrs	S 00°07'25.7" E 037°31'47.3"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Clearing of forest undergrowth observed. Intention not clear	

#	DATE & TIME	BEARINGS	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
2.	12 th September 1410hrs	S 00°03'18.1" E 037°31'00.1"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A fresh charcoal kiln about three weeks old is found alongside a makeshift hut	
3.	15 th September 1454hrs	S 00°09'30.1" E 037°31'46.7"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An area is discovered devoid of forest undergrowth vegetation	
4.	18 th September 1708hrs	S 00°09'41.3" E 037°35'21.2"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Four suspected illegal beehives found on a log on top of a fig tree (<i>Ficus thonningii</i>)	
5.	24 th September 1319hrs	S 00°07'38.4" E 037°32'24.2"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Three suspected illegal beehives found atop an unidentified indigenous tree trunk	
	24 th September 1354hrs	S 00°07'30.0" E 037°32'03.3"	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members while on patrol come across an area cleared of undergrowth for unknown reasons	

2.12 Elephant collaring on Mount Kenya

On the 18th of September the Marania Wildlife Guards assisted in an elephant collaring exercise launched and managed by the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy team. The KWS Marania station rangers and field personnel from Save the Elephants were also part of the larger team. A total of three elephants were collared during the exercise. The first elephant (christened *Surva Bull*) was collared at about 0930hrs at Mlima Surwa along waypoint N 00°03'25.4" E 037° 27'10.3"; the second elephant was collared at about 1110hrs at Kimbo area along waypoint N 00°03'28.8" E 037°29'26.0" and was named *Kimbo female* while the third male elephant was successfully sedated and collared at about 1230hrs at the Elephant Corridor along waypoint N 00°06'42.0" E 037°28'21.8" and was named *Corridor Bull*. Data from the collared elephants provide useful elephant movement data across the conservation landscape and informing site managers on appropriate intervention measures.

