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MONTHLY PROGRAMME ACTIVITY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2013

SUMMARY

Several stakeholder consultative meetings on the conservation status of Mount Kenya were held. MKT field teams worked in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and like minded organization. Project areas highlighted in this month's report are:

- Tree planting and reforestation activities
- Education and awareness initiatives
- The Joint Wildlife Protection Team
- Marania Wildlife Guards
- The Horse Patrol Team
- The Elephant Corridor
- Workshops and Meetings

The report covers MKT activities for the period 31st August to 30th September 2013. Reports were provided by the following employees: Humphrey Munene on *Education and Awareness* initiatives as well as *Tree planting and Reforestation*. Northern sector reports were provided by the following; the *Marania Wildlife Guards*¹; the *Elephant Corridor Team*², the *Horse Patrol Team* as well as the northern area supervisor - Maurice Thure on interrelated aspects as well as security updates. Southern sector updates were collated by the *Joint Wildlife Protection Team*³ led by Edwin Kinyanjui Ngunjiri. The September report was compiled by Maurice Nyaligu.

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

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

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

1. INTRODUCTION

September’s programmatic activities are enumerated below:

- Illegal logging
- Snaring of wildlife and poacher related incidents
- Elephant mortality incidents
- Other wildlife mortality incidents
- Fence destruction and manipulation
- Arrests and apprehensions
- Illegal charcoal kilns, charcoal burning and illegal fuel wood collection
- Discovery of an unknown device
- Habitat destruction by elephants
- Environmental education and awareness
- Tree planting and reforestation
- Workshops and meetings

1.1 Programme patrol and operational areas

The following project activity areas were patrolled by field based teams in September. These are:

- *Elephant Corridor Fencing Team* - Marania to Kisima line, Marania gate, and the Kamiti fence line
- *Marania Wildlife Guards* - Marania forest, Mlima Dinga, Emburi area, Kibene area, Kimbo area, Mlima Ngaita, Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu, Kiwanja ya Dyer, Daraja ya Charlie, Kisima area, Mlima Suruai and Elephant Corridor
- *Horse Patrol Team (HPT)* - Marania forest, Mlima Dinga, Solo camp, Emburi area, Mlima Ngaita, Karoli area, River Marania area, School of adventure, Muchiene forest area and Mlima Mbogo
- *Joint Wildlife Protection Team (JWPT)* - Ruthumbi area and parts of Themwe
- *Field Coordinator* - South Imenti district of Meru County as well as in Ruthumbi for education and awareness initiatives; and Karuri area of Ontulili forest block for tree planting and reforestation work

1.2 Patrol areas covered by the HPT and JWPT in September



Figure 1: Area patrolled by the HPT for the month of September

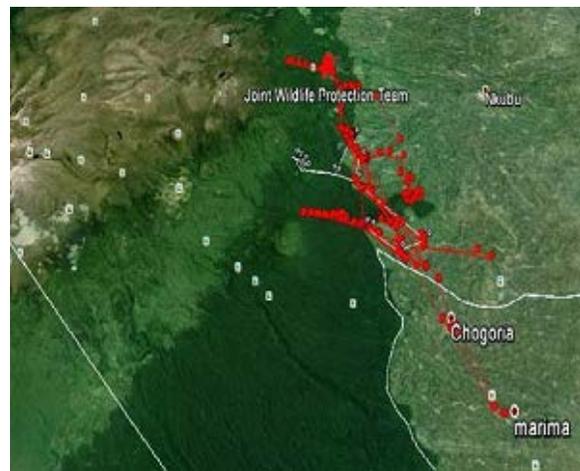


Figure 2: Area patrolled by the JWPT for the month of September

2. PROJECT UPDATES

2.1 Illegal logging

As summarized in the table below, all field teams reported several cases and incidents of illegal logging. Logging was cross-cutting across species; Red cedar (*Juniperus procera*), Cypress (*Cupressus lusitanica*) Camphor (*Ocotea usambarensis*) and Podo (*Podocarpus spp.*) were all affected.

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
1.	6 th September 0830hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several illegally logged Cypress (<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i>) trees observed	37N 0329062, UTM 0006992	
2.	6 th September 1500hrs	Marania forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Illegally logged Red cedar (<i>Juniperus procera</i>) for use as fencing posts	37N 0328744, UTM 0002535	
3.	14 th September 1040hrs	Ruthumbi (Kaburia forest in Nthunguru)	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Several illegally logged trees for use as timber and firewood discovered following patrols	-	
4.	19 th September 1132hrs	Kiwanjaya Dyre	Marania Wildlife Guards	Five Red cedar fencing posts assembled and ready for transportation	37N 0326801, UTM 0006869	
5.	20 th September 1150hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Illegal logging of Podo (<i>Podocarpus spp.</i>) tree species by use of power saw noted	37M 0339954, UTM 9983206	
6.	20 th September 1540hrs	Kithiria area of Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Use of power saws for logging in the forest heard, however team unable to access site	-	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
7.	23 rd September 1257hrs	Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	Illegal loggers' campsite encountered. Several Red cedar trees logged for use as fencing posts	37N0327111, UTM 0007351	
8.	23 rd September 1401hrs	Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	Several Red cedar trees logged for use as fencing posts	37N0326801, UTM 0006168	
9.	23 rd September 1540hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) Camphor tree (<i>Ocotea usambarensis</i>) logged and milled at site. Timber missing	37M0341342, UTM 9982486	
10.	26 th September 1140hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Illegal logging of Cypress trees by surrounding community noted	37N0330587, UTM 0006101	
11.	30 th September 2306hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Five (5) beams of unidentified tree species recovered following an ambush. Beams taken to Ruthumbi forest station	37M0341342, UTM 9980816	

2.2 Snaring of wildlife and poacher related incidents

Cases involving the snaring of wildlife 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	COORDINATES	PHOTO
1.	3 rd September 1015hrs	Solo camp area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame zebra observed in a herd of twenty one (21)	37N0321342, UTM 0002608	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
2.	4 th September	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members managed to remove six (6) snares during a routine patrol in Themwe	-	
3.	6 th September 1213hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poacher hideout identified	37N0328484, UTM 0004820	
4.	7 th September 1011hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	A crossing point used by poachers' to identify and interact with each other encountered	37N0319682, UTM 004526	
5.	7 th September 1054hrs	Karoli area	Horse Patrol Team	A poachers' hideout and hut discovered and destroyed	37N0318989, UTM 0003679	
6.	7 th September 1133hrs	Emburi area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A crossing point for suspected poachers identified	37N0321837, UTM 0005671	
7.	7 th September 1338hrs	Emburi farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping medium sized mammals identified and destroyed	37N0320820, UTM 0006350	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
8.	7 th September 1403hrs	Emburi farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping large mammals identified and destroyed	37N0321618, UTM 0006319	
9.	7 th September 1415hrs	Solo camp area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lone lame zebra seen. Suspected snaring case	37N0323083, UTM 0004762	
10.	7 th September 1433hrs	Emburi area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Suspected crossing for poachers identified	37N0319778, UTM 0004229	
11.	7 th September 1510hrs	Emburi area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poachers' hut identified	37N0318294, UTM 0003243	
12.	7 th September 1520hrs	Emburi area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Old poachers' hut identified and destroyed	37N0317712, UTM 0004471	
13.	9 th September 1055hrs	Marania area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A poachers' hut identified and destroyed	37N0328998, UTM 0004658	
14.	20 th September 1241hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) live snare discovered and removed by team members	37M0339554, UTM 9983282	
15.	21 st September 1132hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team patrolled lake Alice and found an abandoned cooking pot	37M0322218, UTM 9986210	
16.	24 th September 1100hrs	Solo camp area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame zebra seen. Suspected case of snaring	37N0323083, UTM 0004762	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
17.	25 th September 1240hrs	Kibenearea	Marania Wildlife Guards	A snare capable of entrapping medium sized mammals identified and destroyed	37N0339865, UTM 0013002	
18.	25 th September 1444hrs	Kibenearea	Marania Wildlife Guards	Another snare capable of entrapping medium sized mammals discovered and destroyed	37N0330295, UTM 0012815	
19.	27 th September 0837hrs	Kisima farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping small mammals	37N0321164, UTM 0007327	
20.	27 th September 0841hrs	Kisima farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping large mammals	37N0321187, UTM 0009414	
21.	27 th September 0930hrs	Emburi farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) snares capable of entrapping large mammals	37N0321173, UTM 0007461	
22.	27 th September 0940hrs	Emburi farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) snares capable of entrapping large mammals	37N0321180, UTM 0007627	
23.	27 th September 1003hrs	Kisima farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping small mammals	37N0321194, UTM 0007836	
24.	27 th September 1040hrs	Emburi farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) snare capable of entrapping small mammals	37N0321184, UTM 0007884	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
25.	27 th September 1135hrs	Emburi farm fence	Horse Patrol Team	Four (4) snares capable of entrapping medium sized mammals discovered and destroyed	37N0321041, UTM 0009031	
26.	28 th September 0820hrs	Elephant Corridor	Marania Wildlife Guards	One waterbuck carcass encountered during patrol	37N0328769, UTM 0009673	

2.3 3 Elephant mortality incidents

At least one elephant mortality incident was reported by the Horse Patrol Team in the Marania forest block this September. Details of the incident are summarized herein below:

#	DATE & TIME	COORDINATES	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	25 th September 0900hrs	37N 0320807, UTM 0004266	Mlima Mbogo area of Marania forest	Horse Patrol Team	An elephant carcass (one to two months old); sex indeterminate, tusks missing. Cause of death unknown, somebody partsscattered (possibly due to scavengers). Matter reported to KWS Marania field station and KWS MIKE officer.	 

2.4 Other wildlife mortality incidents



Other wildlife mortality incidents for September are as tabulated below. These reports emanated from the work of the Marania Wildlife Guards, the Elephant Corridor Team and the Horse Patrol Team. Wildlife mortalities in these areas are suspected on the whole to be the result of poaching for subsistence purposes and to supply illegal bushmeat to the immediate urban centres.

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
1.	7 th September 1221hrs	Fenceline along Emburi farm	Horse Patrol Team	Spines of a porcupine identified. Incident suspected to have been the result of poaching	37N 0317378, UTM 0005038	
2.	10 th September 1130hrs	Kamiti section of the Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	MKT fencer Robert Murega came across a dead young forest hare. Cause of death unknown. No external injuries to body although some body discharge observed. Incident 50m from the fence line	-	
3.	10 th September 1150hrs	Emburi /Solo camp areas	Horse Patrol team	Team members discover a dead snake by the road side during routine patrol. Cause of death suspected to have been run over by a vehicle	37N 0321465, UTM 0003144	
4.	19 th September 0920hrs	Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	Fencer Patrick Mari encounters a dead forest hare next to the fence line. Cause of death suspected to be electrocution. No external body injuries	-	
5.	26 th September 1304hrs	Kisima area of Marania forest	Horse Patrol Team	A fresh male Grey duiker carcass; cause of death unknown discovered by the team during routine patrol. Carcass at intermediate stages of predation.	37N 0327322, UTM 0007984	

2.5 Fence destruction and manipulation

Elephant Corridor fencing activities for September revolved around clearance of weeds and other plants growing along the fence perimeter in preparation for the October rainy season. Fewer elephants were observed utilising the Corridor in comparison to the previous month. Nevertheless, and as chronicled below, human and non-human actors alike inflicted some damage to the existing fence lines in the general area.

- A lone elephant was responsible for destroying a section of the Ntirimiti community short fence on the 2nd of September; repairs were immediately undertaken by MKT fencer Elijah Kipsang
- At an unknown time on the 11th of September, another lone elephant damaged a section of the Ntirimiti community short fence and managed to gain access into the surrounding villages. Fence repairs were undertaken on the 21st of September by MKT fencers Charles Gitonga and Elijah Kipsang
- On 13th September a lorry on its way to collect hay from Trinny Cartland's home lost control and damaged the gate; immediate repairs were undertaken by MKT fencer Charles Gitonga
- On the evening of 14th September at about 1840hrs four women from the adjacent community managed to manipulate a section of the fence and gain entry into the Corridor. However, their attempts to extract resources were averted by fencer Robert Murega
- On 15th of September at about 1830hrs two men were found harvesting grass at Kamiti section. The two were apprehended but managed to overpower the fencer Patrick Mari and managed to escape
- On 26th of September at about 1630hrs two women manipulated a section of the fence live wire transmission and harvested grass but escaped upon seeing fencer Robert Murega approaching.

2.6 6 Arrests and apprehensions

On 6th of September at about 1830hrs a man was arrested in possession of 10 round posts of eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*) trees following patrols by MKT men. With help of Kisima farm security, the suspect was taken to Subuiga police station and later arraigned before a court of law where a six month prison sentence or fine of Ksh. 20,000 was imposed. A successful ambush was laid by MKT scouts led by the northern area supervisor on the 28th of September at about 1130hrs; the team waylaid three men namely Kirimi Kirugi, Evans Mungatia and Silas Kimathi and managed to apprehend the three in possession of grass within the Corridor buffer zone but had to release them later because of a lack of motorable transport to police station.

2.7 Illegal charcoal kilns, charcoal burning and fuel wood collection

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

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	COORDINATES	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	7 th September 1501hrs	Emburi area	Marania Wildlife Guards	37N0314287, UTM 0004164	An old charcoal kiln encountered	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	COORDINATES	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
2.	9 th September 1055hrs	Marania forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	37N0328998, UTM 0004658	One (1) fresh charcoal kiln discovered and destroyed	
3.	25 th September 1357hrs	Kibene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	37N0330031, UTM 0012421	Two (2) old charcoal kilns encountered and destroyed	
4.	25 th September 1530hrs	Kibene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	37N0330234, UTM 0012722	Five (5) fresh charcoal kilns and three (3) old charcoal kilns. Suspects escaped leaving behind two (2) sufurias, one (1) spade and one (1) roll of bhang as exhibits	
5.	26 th September 1321hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	37N0331268, UTM 0005493	Six (6) fresh charcoal kilns and one (1) sack of charcoal ready to be transported	
6.	26 th September 1520hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	37N0330712, UTM 0004555	One (1) old charcoal kiln encountered during patrol	

2.8 Discovery of an unknown device



An unknown ordinance was encountered on the 16th of September at about 1322hrs during routine patrols by the Marania Wildlife Guards in the Chemi Chemi area. Team members observed an unknown device along waypoint 37N 0327358, UTM 0005695. The device is reputed to be a remnant of explosive ordinances left behind by disciplined forces that occasionally train in the locality; this information was

immediately relayed to K.W.S Marania field station.



2.9 Habitat destruction by elephants

Elephants were reported to have destroyed a number of trees on several occasions within the northern section of the mountain this September. This information is tabulated below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	INCIDENT	COORDINATES
1.	6 th September 1140hrs	Mlima Dinga Marania forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	A lone elephant reported to have destroyed several unidentified indigenous trees	37N0323935, UTM000558
2.	11 th September 0940hrs	Marania area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A lone elephant destroys a section of the Ntirimiti community short fence and gains access to community areas destroying food crops and homestead fences along various points	37N0320306, UTM0007922
3.	25 th September 1050hrs	Kibene area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Eight elephants break down a number of Cypress trees	37N0324400, UTM0002482
4.	28 th September 0810hrs	Marania forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Six elephants, observed breaking down several tree stands	37N0324083, UTM0009076

2.10 Environmental education and awareness



This month's environmental education and awareness initiatives were undertaken in South Imenti District of Meru County in an area adjacent to the Forest Reserve next to Ruthumbi forest station. Land use in this area varies; a large percentage of community members subsist almost exclusively on tea farming with about 70 to 80 percent of the farms covered by tea plantations. Other land use practices include horticultural farming and some animal husbandry. For this reason, the importance of the mountain to the livelihoods of surrounding communities cannot be over emphasized. The education and awareness program in the area aimed at sensitizing the community members and the school pupils on the inherent dangers of forest destruction and consumption of game meat. Recent data collated as a consequence of field operations by the JWPT and intelligence reports indicate that snaring of small forest mammals for meat and illegal logging for timber, continue to be a challenge. This information was conveyed to the audience through the popular documentary - *'Running Dry'* which clearly shows how Kenya's water catchment and forests on Mount Kenya, the Aberdares and Mau ranges were destroyed in the late 1980's to early 2000. A three (3) day outreach exercise was extended to reach six (6) schools: Murungurune Primary School, Irimbene Primary School, Kionyo Primary School, Kionyo Secondary School, PCEA Kariene Academy and Menwe secondary School. In total, about 1,100 pupils were sensitized with message and during an interactive question and answer session; it was impressed upon students to convey the message to their parents and guardians.



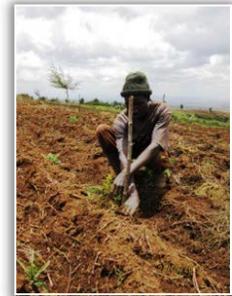
2.11 Tree planting and reforestation

A follow-up of the Trust's reforestation work in Karuri was undertaken this September. During the last rainy season in March /May, several tree seedlings were planted in the Karuri area of the Ontulili



forest block. A recent check by the Trust's field coordinator (Humphrey Munene) on the survival rate of the transplanted seedlings showed a high level of success. An area of about twenty (20) Ha (where the project is being implemented) was divided into one (1) acre plots and allocated to individual members of the neighbouring community to cultivate and plant seedlings alongside food crops (mostly potatoes). Most planted plots had over 60 percent of the seedlings establishing root and are now firmly anchored. About ten (10) plots remain to be planted and plans are already underway to transport

additional seedlings for use in the plots. Approximately 3,000 seedlings are required for the remaining space and a further 2,000 more for replanting in areas where the first transplanted seedlings dried. As indicated in previous reports, this is in conformity with the PELIS⁴ programme of KFS. The main advantage of planting tree seedlings on cultivated plots (as in the case of Karuri), is that seedlings are not exposed to undue competition from grasses and shrubs and that soils are loosened thus enabling roots to spread easily. Farmers cultivating plots continue to tend seedlings as they take care of their crops, an activity expected to last three (3) to four (4) years before site is abandoned. So far, farmers in the area report significant gains from the sale of farm produce generated in the plots.



3. Workshops and meetings

3.1 1 Consultative meeting on the conservation status of Mount Kenya as a World Heritage property

On the 12th of September 2013, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural



Resources (IUCN) convened a one-day stakeholder meeting to discuss conservation and management challenges affecting the Mount Kenya National Park & Natural Forest World Heritage Site. The overall objective of the meeting was to improve the understanding of current conservation and management challenges afflicting the property, and to identify opportunities for IUCN as the advisory body to the World Heritage Convention, the property site managers, and other key partners to develop interventions that help redress current challenges

and to capitalize on on-going opportunities for conservation action at site level. Specific objectives were to address issues articulated in the UNESCO State of Conservation reports, review progress made in the management of the site through the Enhancing Our Heritage toolkit and explore opportunities for climate change adaptation through a joint project with UNESCO and partners. Maurice Nyaligu represented the Trust and made a presentation based on ongoing work by the various teams.

⁴ Plantation Enrichment Livelihood System (PELIS) – an initiative of the Kenya Forest Service (KFS)

3.2 Consultative meeting with judicial officers regarding wildlife related criminal cases in the region



From the 27th to the 29th of September, a sensitization retreat for magistrates within the Mount Kenya region took place in Meru National Park. The objective of the meeting /retreat, was to bring to the fore, emerging wildlife related crimes in the region with the hope of expediting convictions through the judicial process. Several magistrates and law courts within the Mount Kenya region and immediate vicinity were represented. The Trust was represented by Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure and Maurice Nyaligu who

also articulated the challenges encountered by field based personnel through the prosecution (Police) and legal process (law courts). Rhino Ark, Space for Giants and Kenya Wildlife Service also gave presentations. Data collated by MKT was analyzed and presented in presentation as were success stories and pending cases. Judicial officers also saw firsthand wildlife contraband confiscated within the Meru Conservation area. Overall the meetings went well and follow up sensitization workshops are in the pipeline including sessions with court users committees.

