

www.mountkenyatrust.org

MONTHLY PROGRAMME ACTIVITY REPORT

JANUARY 2014

SUMMARY

Programme activities highlighted in the January report are:

- Fencing activities
- Education and awareness
- The Joint Wildlife Protection Team
- Marania Wildlife Guards
- The Horse Patrol Team
- The Elephant Corridor Team
- Donor visit

The report covers MKT activities for the period 31st December 2013 to 31st January 2014. The following teams provided field updates reports: *Marania Wildlife Guards*¹; the *Elephant Corridor Team*², the *Horse Patrol Team* as well as reports by the Northern Area Supervisor on matters pertaining to the northern sector. North Eastern patrol findings were collated by the *Joint Wildlife Protection Team*³ led by Edwin Kinyanjui Ngure. Humphrey Munene provided updates on fencing work, education and awareness. The January 2014 report was compiled by Maurice Onyino Nyaligu.

¹ The Marania wildlife guards is a team comprised of 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 Ngure, Dominic Gitonga, Charles Nyaga, George Mwenda, and Francis Wachira.

1. INTRODUCTION

The following observations and interventions were noted by MKT field based teams within the Protected Areas of the National Reserve and National Park this January.

- Integrity issues pertaining to the Ntirimiti fence
- Education and awareness work through essay competitions
- Logging within the National Reserve
- Observations of snares, poacher hideouts, illegal charcoal kilns, illegal honey harvesting, sightings of suspects, wildlife mortalities and lame animals
- Elephant corridor fence intrusion, manipulation and destruction
- Habitat destructive activities by wildlife and man
- Ambushes and arrests
- A human body at the Corridor underpass
- Bush and forest fires
- Illegal tourism activities
- Donor visit by the Eden Wildlife Trust

1.1 Programme patrol and field activity intervention areas

The following areas were covered by field based teams this January:

- *Elephant Corridor Team* - Elephant Corridor and the immediate Corridor precincts'
- *Marania Wildlife Guards* - Marania forest, Chemi Chemi ya Ndovu, Mlima Dinga, Elephant Corridor, Kiwanja ya Dyre, Kimbo area, Mlima Suruai, Lower Marania, Kisima area, Runywingi area, Nols camp area, Mava area and Mlima Ngaita areas
- *Horse Patrol Team (HPT)* - Marania forest, Solo camp area, School of Adventure area, Emburi area, Karoli area, Kisima area, Mlima Ngaita area and River Marania area
- *Joint Wildlife Protection Team (JWPT)* - Ruthumbi area and parts of immediate adjoining vicinity

1.2 Area patrolled by the HPT in January 2014



Figure 1: Area patrolled by the HPT for the month of January 2014

2. PROJECT UPDATES

2.1 Integrity issues pertaining to the Ntiriti fence

Highlights:

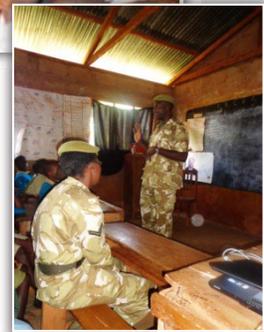
- A technician from the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy checked the fence line on the 18th of December 2013 following persistent failures
- Main issues revolve around the battery which has a poor charge storage and thus required replacement
- During the intervening period, three (3) elephants managed to break through the fence perimeter and cause significant damage to adjoining farms on the 21st of January 2014
- The damaged section was fixed on 24th January with help from the MKT corridor fencer. A larger capacity battery (200Ah) was also bought and installed on the same date
- Another solar panel is to be added to raise the total solar charging capacity to above 150Watts based on recommendations by the Chloride Exide solar systems specialist
- Ntiriti community fence attendant has attested that since these measures were instituted, power along the fence line is consistent at 8.2KV on one end and 9.3KV on the other in the absence of shorts



2.2 Education and awareness work through essay competitions

Highlights:

- Officers from the Mount Kenya Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service visited schools around the mountain to distribute essay posters for the national KWS essay competition
- Students from seventeen (17) schools (both primary and secondary) were invited to take part in the competition
- The national competition targets three levels of students (tertiary, secondary and primary)
- Apart from prizes, the competition exposes participants to the conservation world and helps create an understanding of current conservation challenges in Kenya
- Several conservation and environmental themes are encapsulated within the competition.



2.3 Logging within the National Reserve

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

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
1.	5 th January 1012hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Ten (10) illegally logged Cypress (<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i>) trees discovered by team members	
	5 th January 1038hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members encounter a huge Rosewood (<i>Hagenia abyssinica</i>) tree logged and ready for transportation	
2.	6 th January 1157hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Three (3) Podo trees (<i>Podocarpus spp.</i>) discovered chopped and milled at site using power saws	
3.	7 th January 1346hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two (2) Podo trees discovered chopped and milled at site using power saws	
	7 th January 1438hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) unidentified indigenous tree discovered chopped and milled at site using a power saw	
4.	9 th January 1440hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Unidentified indigenous tree found chopped using axes and intended for fuel wood	
	9 th January 1601hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Several Podo trees found chopped and milled at site using power saws	
5.	11 th January 1550hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) man seen chopping down a 'Muringiti' tree suspected to be for use in fencing. Suspect managed to escape	
	11 th January 1646hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A Podo tree found cut using power saws. Cut tree fell on others causing extensive damage	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
	11 th January 1808hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Several cuttings observed on the barks of unidentified indigenous trees	
6.	13 th January 1014hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Twelve (12) Red cedar (<i>Juniperus procera</i>) posts recovered during patrol	
7.	14 th January 1256hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Four (4) Red cedar trees found chopped for use as fencing posts	
8.	19 th January 1321hrs	Kimbo area of Muchiene forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Three hundred and ninety eight (398) Cypress trees cut down and ready for transportation	
9.	20 th January 1550hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A 'Mukaragati' tree found debarked for suspected medicinal purposes	
	20 th January 1654hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover a 'Munyamwe' tree that had been cut and dried for use as fuel wood	
10.	22 nd January 1710hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) woman suspect caught carrying a huge log for use as fuel wood	
	22 nd January 1830hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree found chopped along a footpath using a power saw	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
11.	23 rd January 1203hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Three (3) Red cedar trees found felled and chopped by Kimita Prison inmates (15). Prisoners were in the company of a corporal and two (2) warders	
	23 rd January 1640hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree discovered chopped using a power saw and logs ferried using a donkey cart	
12.	24 th January 1710hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Three (3) 'Muringiti' trees found chopped and suspected to be for use as fencing posts	
	24 th January 1805hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Two (2) unidentified indigenous trees cut down for use as fuel wood	
13.	25 th January 1043hrs	Mava area of Rutundu	Marania Wildlife Guards	Ten (10) Podo trees discovered logged for unspecified reasons	
	25 th January 1157hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Eight (8) Red cedars found chopped for suspected use in fencing	
	25 th January 1249hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) Red cedar chopped halfway using an axe	
14.	27 th January 1720hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Unidentified indigenous tree found chopped for use as fuel wood	
15.	29 th January 1530hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Several old Red cedar trees found chopped for use as fencing posts	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	OBSERVATIONS /REMARKS	PHOTO
16.	30 th January 1446hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	One (1) unidentified indigenous tree found chopped for use in making beehives	
	30 th January 1630hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An unidentified indigenous tree found chopped for use as fuel wood	

2.4 Observations of snares, poacher hideouts, illegal charcoal kilns, illegal honey harvesting, sightings of suspects, wildlife mortalities and lame animals

Poaching related incidents including snaring were reported by all three field patrol teams this December. These incidents are tabulated below:

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
1.	2 nd January 0830hrs	Solo camp area	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) lame Zebras seen in a herd of ten (10)	37N 0321812, UTM 0004620	
2.	5 th January 0900hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	Suspected poacher footprints around Emburi /Kimbo area	37N 0319944, UTM 0005972	
3.	7 th January 1041hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) wire snare set on the Wangu Emburi farm fence	37N 0328839, UTM 0005553	
	7 th January 1251hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members find and immobilize a medium sized snare	-	
	7 th January 1324hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	A total of five (5) snares found and immobilized	-	
	7 th January 1420hrs	Kiwanja ya Dyre area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members came across a suspected poachers' crossing point	37N 0326374, UTM 0005095	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
4.	7 th January 1500hrs	Kiwanja ya Dyre	Marania Wildlife Guards	Suspected poacher footprints seen around Emburi area	37N 0326396, UTM 0005742	
	8 th January 1022hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members come across a site where honey harvesting takes place. A huge burnt Rosewood also seen	37N 0330511, UTM 0006601	
	8 th January 1322hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	Suspected poacher foot prints	37N 0331638, UTM 0003774	
5.	8 th January 1444hrs	Kimbo area of Muchiene forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	One (1) snare capable of ensnaring small mammals set along an animal trail	37N 0331727, UTM 0003728	
	9 th January 1014hrs	River Marania /Solo camp	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) lame (snared) Zebras observed in a herd of Ten (10)	37N 0321552, UTM 0004292	
	9 th January 1022hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Two (2) old charcoal kilns	37N 0331407, UTM 0002515	
	9 th January 1130hrs	Mlima Dinga	Marania Wildlife Guards	Two (2) snares made from bamboo sticks capable of entrapping small mammals set along an animal path	37N 0336430, UTM 0002498	
6.	9 th January 1706hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Discovered and immobilized a small snare targeting Suni	-	
	13 th January 1233hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	A Jackson's Francolin carcass discovered. Cause of death unknown	37N 0318395, UTM 0005395	
	13 th January 1400hrs	Kisima /Emburi areas	Horse Patrol Team	A dead Serval Cat found in Kisima farm dam. Cause of death suspected to be drowning	37N 0322728, UTM 0006917	
7.	15 th January 0903hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Eland observed in a herd of ten (10)	37N 0329085, UTM 0005622	
	15 th January 1122hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	Team members discover yet another dead Jackson's	37N 0318023, UTM 0005264	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
				Francolin. Cause of death, carnivore attack		
8.	16 th January 1031hrs	Solo camp area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Zebra observed in a twin pair	37N 0322234, UTM 0004813	
9.	17 th January 0941hrs	Kisima area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A lame and weak Warthog that appeared to suffer from infection unable to run	37N 0326809, UTM 0007549	
10.	18 th January 1240hrs	Emburi /Karoli area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Zebra observed in a feeding herd of six (6)	37N 0317482, UTM 0003853	
11.	19 th January 1041hrs	Kimbo area	Marania Wildlife Guards	A dead Hadada Ibis, suspected to have been killed by a carnivore	37N 0331203, UTM 0006948	
12.	20 th January	Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	A lame Sykes monkey spotted in a troop of ten (10)	37N 0328021, UTM 0007505	
13.	20 th January 1651hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	An old snare discovered and immobilized	-	
	22 nd January 1321hrs	Mlima Dinga	Horse Patrol Team	Suspected poacher and dog prints encountered	37N 0323367, UTM 0004873	
14.	23 rd January 0915hrs	Solo camp area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Zebra observed in a herd of ten (10)	37N 0321493, UTM 0003413	
	23 rd January 1050hrs	Runywingi area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members in the company of KWS rangers encounter one (1) snare capable of entrapping medium sized animals	37N 0330017, UTM 9998492	
	23 rd January 1137hrs	Runywingi area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poacher crossing point encountered at Kathita	37N 0331285, UTM 9998836	
	23 rd January 1555hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members discover a fire place suspected to be in use by poachers and loggers	-	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
15.	24 th January 1146hrs	Nols area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members encounter three natural caves suspected to be in use by criminals. A ladder leading to the cave about 20m high also seen	37N 0336310, UTM 9993244	
	24 th January 1250hrs	Nols camp area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Team members encounter a fresh male Eland carcass about two days old. Cause of death fighting	37N 0332685, UTM 9993252	
	24 th January 1431hrs	Nols area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	A suspected poacher cave discovered. Cave had snares and fishing gear	37N 0331359, UTM 9993456	
16.	25 th January 0915hrs	Mava area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	One (1) lame Eland observed in a grazing herd of four (4). Animal had a snare on left hind leg	37N 0331605, UTM 9996958	
	25 th January 0928hrs	Mava area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Three (3) suspected poacher huts discovered between Rutundu camp and Mlima Kali	37N 0332877, UTM 9996958	
	25 th January 1040hrs	Mava area of Rutundu forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Two (2) charcoal kilns discovered during patrol	37N 0332924, UTM 9998314	
	25 th January 1245hrs	Kamiti Corridor	Elephant Corridor Team	A fresh decapitated forest hare carcass found next to the fence line	-	
	25 th January 1449hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team immobilizes four (4) snares suspected to target Suni	-	
	27 th January 1008hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) snares capable of entrapping medium sized mammals discovered and destroyed	37N 0318290, UTM 0003813	
17.	27 th January 1020hrs	Emburi /Karoli areas	Horse Patrol Team	Two (2) snares discovered in a thicket capable of entrapping large mammals	37N 0317236, UTM 0003587	
	27 th January 1649hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection	Team members manage to identify	-	

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	PARTICULARS	COORDINATES	PHOTO
18.			Team	and immobilize two (2) snares suspected to target Suni		
	29 th January 1420hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members come across four (4) used snares	-	
	29 th January 1620hrs	Ruthumbi	Joint Wildlife Protection Team	Team members revisit an area where Silk oak (<i>Grevillea robusta</i>) trees had been chopped for use in charcoal kilns	-	
19.	30 th January 0722hrs	Emburi area	Horse Patrol Team	One (1) lame Eland observed feeding in a herd of three (3)	37N 0319073, UTM 0005510	

2.6 Elephant corridor fence intrusion, manipulation and destruction

Chronology of events within the Corridor during the month of January:

- 4th January 1630hrs - three women and one man seen illegally harvesting grass within the lower Corridor. Suspects escape arrest on seeing an MKT fencer and Kisima security approach
- 10th January 1702hrs - one man seen collecting grass at the lower corridor no arrests made
- 11th January 1650hrs - four children observed collecting fuel wood at the lower corridor, when approached by an MKT fencer they escape leaving behind two sisal ropes
- 12th January 1045hrs - an MKT fencer stationed at the middle house area comes across a section of the Corridor fence damaged by monkeys intruding onto adjoining farm land
- 29th January 0630hrs - A lone elephant pulls down the Corridor gate at Marania gaining access to the farm and destroying a wheat plantation. The gate was repaired by a team from Marania farm and an MKT fencer stationed at the upper house
- 30th January 0645hrs - a gate at Marania Corridor found seriously damaged by an elephant that entered the farm and destroyed farm produce; immediate repairs undertaken by both Marania farm and MKT fencers
- 31st January 0642hrs - another Corridor gate found damaged by an elephant that had gained entry into the farm causing destruction, major repairs carried out on all gates by Marania, MKT fencers and scouts no other violations reported since.

2.7 Habitat destructive activities by wildlife and man

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

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	INCIDENT	COORDINATES
1.	7 th January 0830hrs	Kiwanja ya Dyre	Marania Wildlife Guards	Five (5) elephants observed breaking down a number of indigenous trees	37N 0328709, UTM 0008704

#	DATE & TIME	AREA	TEAM	INCIDENT	COORDINATES
2.	8 th January 1205hrs	River Marania	Horse Patrol Team	A lone elephant observed destroying several mixed indigenous trees	37N 0326363, UTM 0002472
3.	16 th January 1058hrs	Marania forest	Marania Wildlife Guards	Garbage found disposed in the forest by members of the surrounding community	37N 0328296, UTM 0008704
4.	18 th January 0920hrs	Emburi /Karoli area	Horse Patrol Team	Ten (10) elephants observed debarking a number of indigenous trees	37N 0319653, UTM 0005831
5.	24 th January 1220hrs	Marania forest	Horse Patrol Team	Five (5) elephants noted destroying several mixed indigenous trees	37N 0327568, UTM 0008031
6.	27 th January 1050hrs	Chemi ya Ndovu	Marania Wildlife Guards	Five (5) elephants observed debarking Cypress trees	37N 0327213, UTM 0007546

2.8 Ambushes and arrests

Highlights:

- 5th of January 1101hrs - the MWG while patrolling Mlima Dinga area arrested four men in the act of making fencing posts from Red cedar trees. The arrested persons were Daniel Maina Kamere aged 75years old from Tetu Nyeri and resident of Kibirichia; Isaac Mwiti Karingori aged 17years old from Muthara Tigania and resident of Kibirichia; Eric Kiogora Monda aged 16years old from Nguvu Meru and resident of Kibirichia and Kenneth Mwirigi Maitethia aged 16years old from Mikinduri Tigania and resident of Kibirichia. With transport assistance from Marania farm the suspects were taken and booked at Kiirua police station vide OB 13/5/1/2014 with an offence of cutting and selling forest produce contrary to section 52(1)/B of the forest produce Act of No.7 of 2005
- 13th January 1055hrs - while on patrol in Mlima Dinga area the MWG managed to arrest one male logging suspect as the rest escaped. The suspect Peter Mbae Ncibiri aged 55years from Nkubu Meru and resident of Marania forest station camp was caught with several exhibits
- The suspect was taken and booked at Kiirua police station in a KWS vehicle from Meru with all exhibits collected from the scene vide OB 14/13/1/2014, offence cutting and selling forest produce contrary to section 52(1)/B of the forest Act of No.7 of 2005
- 23 January 1232hrs – the MWG while on joint patrol at Runywingi area of Rutundu with the KWS rangers came across two men illegal fishing at River Kathita. The two were arrested in possession of two fishing rods, two hooks, several earth worms, four fish (trout), two machetes, one knife and one string snare. Kimathi Murithi aged 48years and Julius Mugambi aged 68years both from Kibaranyiki were booked at Kiirua police station in a KWS vehicle.



2.9 A human body at the Corridor underpass

On the 15th of January at about 0950hrs an MKT fencer while on normal patrol within the Corridor came across a dead male body in his twenties lying in a pool of blood at the underpass. This

information was relayed to the Subuiga police station, MKT office, Kisima farm and as well as Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, the body was taken to the mortuary by police. It is suspected the man may have been killed by unknown people from outside the vicinity as the body could not be identified by any member of the immediate surrounding community.

2.10 Bush and forest fires



A fire was reported by the HPT on 30th of January at about 0730hrs following leads received from the Senior Warden Mount Kenya National Park. Team members responded immediately and found the forest fire wide-spread along waypoint 37N 0318308, UTM 0003981 in Emburi area. Through the concerted efforts of two KWS rangers, an employee of Wangu Emburi farm and HPT team members the incident was effectively handled. The fire was thought to have been started by honey harvesters and suspect poachers. The

fire burnt about five acres of indigenous trees and shrubs.

2.11 Illegal tourism activities

On 25th of January at about 0842hrs the horse patrol team while patrolling solo camp area came across six people in two vehicles (KAM 815I and KAK 395S) clearly marked Ol - jogi Ltd. The occupants and the two vehicles did not have the required permits allowing them access into the forest and the matter was reported to KWS Marania who took immediate action.

3.0 Donor visit



In mid-January (15th to 16th January) a Trustee of the Eden Wildlife Trust (Jonathan Eden and his wife Marion Eden) paid a courtesy call on the Marania Wildlife Guards. The Eden Wildlife Trust has generously supported the construction of a housing unit for the scouts, and has continually funded the team since 2001. The couple inspected the newly constructed house and accompanied



team members on a short patrol in the forest. At the camp, the visitors were shown some of the snares retrieved by the team during patrols.