

MT. ELGON ELEPHANT PROJECT – SCOUT REPORT

November 2020

Patrol Summary

During the month, the 4 MEEP community scouts covered a total distance of 967 km in 490 hours during 75 patrols across the mountain. This is a decrease of 12.3% in terms of distance covered compared to October, as a result of refresher training undertaken during the month disrupting their patrolling schedule. Our top scout this month covered a total distance of 331 km at an average of 16 km per patrol.

As well as patrolling, activities undertaken included a community meeting, recruitment of additional scouts and data collection training. No joint patrols with Kenya Wildlife Service were conducted this month.



Elephant and Other Wildlife Data

Three direct elephant observations were recorded in the month in different locations, including one herd of around 50. We are pleased to report there were no incidents reported by the scouts of human-elephant conflict. Thirty-five observations of other wildlife species were recorded during the month. Spotted hyenas and bush bucks were recorded in the highest numbers.

Snaring, Charcoal Burning, “PELIS” Mapping and Livestock

No snares were found in the month by the scouts – another very pleasing outcome. However, 31 instances of forest destruction through timber logging or charcoal burning were reported – a serious issue. Another significant issue is deforestation also through “PELIS” or “shamba system” farming and further mapping of these areas was achieved, as was the mapping of the location of livestock when found as overgrazing results in lack of forest regeneration.



Community Sensitisation Meeting

A community sensitisation meeting, funded by MEEP and led by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), was held on 20th November at Kimurio village near to where an elephant poaching incident occurred during August. Approximately one hundred local people joined the meeting and two MEEP scouts. The KWS Warden thanked the community for their active role in the tusk recovery and the support offered to the KWS team following the poaching incident. Similarly, the warden condemned the incident strongly and urged local people to work closely with KWS and MEEP scouts to avert any similar incident in future.

Scouts Recruitment

During the month, two additional scouts were recruited to the MEEP team. A total of 5 men were interviewed by MEEP and KWS on 24th November 2020. The two scouts that were successful are from the east and west sides of our current area of activities to allow us to extend our patrols to new areas. They underwent orientation and rigorous training on data collection to prepare them for the job.



Scouts Data Collection Training

Two days of data collection training for the new scouts in the CyberTracker app installed on the mobile phones they were issued with was carried out on 25th – 26th November 2020. This served as a refresher training for the existing scouts as well. The scouts did mock patrols for practice and the data model was further modified to meet new data collection needs.