



## **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION – FY 2019**

Project: Support of anti- poaching teams 9-1 & 9-2 of Northern Rangelands Trust Conservancies, Kenya.

Period: 1January to 31 December 2019

Name of investigators: Ian Craig, Director of Conservation

Project starting date: 1 January 2019; Anticipated Completion Date: 31 December 2019



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## 1. Executive Summary

The continued support by the International Elephant Foundation to the Northern Rangelands Trust's 9-1 and 9-2 mobile anti-poaching teams has created a significant impact in the reduction of elephant poaching, livestock theft, road banditry and general insecurity over the years across the Ewaso ecosystem which lies in central-northern Kenya comprising of parts of Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo counties.

This successful approach to curb elephant poaching and general insecurity is based on the deployment of highly mobile, well trained and equipped multi-ethnic anti-poaching units drawn from within the local communities.

The ethnic diversity within the NRT 9-1 and 9-2 teams has proven to be one of their greatest strengths. Each community from the conservancies they cover is represented in the team and they work together under an independent and experienced leadership. These teams work closely with the local communities seeking information and local support in a manner that is not normally possible through the conventional law enforcement efforts.

These specialized teams have successfully supplemented the National Police Service (NPS) efforts to curb livestock theft, road banditry and general insecurity across the landscape through intensified and well-coordinated patrol efforts.

The NRT 9-1 and 9-2 team's elephant protection and monitoring efforts are guided by data collected from collared elephants and this ensures their presence within areas with a high concentration of elephant population.

The team also conducts conservation awareness during their patrols and interaction with the community members and because of this, community members now appreciate the importance of wildlife living amongst them. Information on elephant movement to the community members has helped to reduce cases of human elephant conflict.

This has seen the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE) decrease substantially over the years because of the teams' presence and efforts.

## 2. Conservation Needs:

The Ewaso ecosystem, which lies in central-northern Kenya comprising of parts of Laikipia, Samburu and Isiolo counties has the second largest concentration of elephants in Kenya and hosts one of the highest densities and diversity of wildlife almost entirely outside the network of government protected areas.

This landscape also has a high prevalence of illegal firearms, active network of poachers, and a long history of ethnic conflict, cattle-rustling and road banditry (including tourist attacks). This generalized insecurity means that wildlife poaching can thrive and this may equally affect stability and investment.

Before the establishment of the mobile anti-poaching teams in the year 2010, elephant poaching for ivory, livestock theft and road banditry was rife and this affected the security of both wildlife and people living in this region. The need to address poaching and insecurity incidences led to the establishment of the specialized anti-poaching teams which are highly trained and equipped.

The fate of wildlife in this landscape lies largely on the ability of the local communities through community conservancies to protect, conserve and benefit from the wildlife in their land.

Community members are now recognizing the benefits of conservation through improved land management, wildlife conservation leverage through tourism revenue and employment, increased security for people and enterprise development opportunities. However, if the poaching and insecurity is not checked, then this could have a knock-on effect to tourism and wider security, destabilizing conservancies and weakening them as potential drivers of economic, environmental and social change in the region.

The NRT 9-1 and 9-2 mobile anti-poaching teams contribute to the conservation leverage through their efforts to curb poaching and general insecurity. The team's interaction with community members during patrols and conservation awareness sessions increase appreciation of conservation benefits.

Increased wildlife numbers help to boost tourism revenue which contributes to employment and implementation of community livelihood improvement projects. Conservancy land management through grazing and settlement planning and provision of elephant's movement information by the mobile teams have also helped to reduce human wildlife conflict.

### 3. Summary of Goals and Objectives:

**Goal:** To improve security of wildlife and people in northern Kenya.

**Objective(s):** To reduce killing of elephant and other insecurity incidences in northern Kenya's Ewaso Nyiro eco-system.

#### **Output:**

- Reduced elephant poaching
- Reduced incidences of road banditry
- Reduced livestock theft
- Improved security for people and wildlife

#### **Activities:**

- Support to anti-poaching teams' salaries, rations and insurance cover
- Support to anti-poaching teams' operational allowances
- Support to motor vehicle running expenses (fuel and maintenance) enabling a rapid response to all security incidents

### 4. Summary of Progress:

The NRT 9-1 and 9-2 mobile anti-poaching teams continued presence and joint patrols with conservancy and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers along the Ewaso ecosystem during this reporting period has significantly helped to address incidences of human wildlife conflict, livestock theft, poaching and general insecurity as evidenced by the following actions:-

#### **Deployments:**

During the month of January, the team carried out routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Nolkarkar, Kamanga and Losesia areas of Sera Conservancy, Kuro and Madogobaurka areas of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy and Babala area in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy. The highlights of their patrol during this month was the recovery of a G-3 rifle around Kirish area and 15 out of 20 stolen camels in Bojidera. The G-3 rifle was handed over to the police and the camels returned to the owner.

In the month of February, the team patrolled Awarsitu and Ntorobo areas of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, Kisima Hamsini area of Sera Conservancy, Reteti Elephant Sanctuary area in Namunyak Conservancy and parts of Nakuprat-Gotu conservancy. The highlights of their patrols during this month was helping community members to find a missing child who had been reported missing in Lerapanga, addressing the human wildlife conflict caused by lions who had attacked and injured 29 people over the recent months in Bulesa, recovery of two G-3 rifles in Attan and 65 out of the 156 goats stolen in Kiambogo. The G-3 rifles were handed over to Isiolo police station and the goats back to the owner.

During the month of March, the team patrolled Bulesa, Awarsitu and Kismitir areas of Biliqo-Bulesa conservancy and Sukumao and Sere elparua areas of Sera Conservancy. The highlights of their patrol during this month was the recovery of nine cows stolen during a road banditry incident along Laisamis-Merile road.

During the period between April and June, the team carried out routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Sabarwawa, Kom and Madogabaurka areas of Biliqo-Bulesa conservancy, Turgung area of Melako conservancy, Losesia and Kapuru areas of Sera conservancy and Santait and Ndonyo wasin areas of Namunyak conservancy.

The highlight of the teams' patrols during the month of April was the recovery of a piece of ivory which may have broken off during an elephant fight. The piece of ivory was handed over to the KWS outpost in Kom.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of May was attending to cases of human elephant conflict, the recovery in Merile of five out of the 15 camels stolen in Gotu and the rescue of elephant calves. During this month, the team rescued three elephant calves and attended to two elephant deaths. The recovered camels were returned to the owners.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of June was the recovery of 112 out of the 200 goats stolen in Naibung'a, attending to an abandoned baby oryx aged between two and three months and helping in the recovery of all the 50 camels that had been stolen by three armed bandits along Merile-Sere Olipi area. The recovered goats and camels were handed back to the owners while the baby oryx was taken to Reteti Elephant Sanctuary but unfortunately, despite best efforts later died of exhaustion.

In the month of July, the team carried out routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Kauro, Kisima Hamsini and Moto areas of Sera Conservancy, Lodosoit and Ndonyo wasin areas of Namunyak Conservancy, Mlango area in Leparua Conservancy and areas within Nasuulu and Nakuprat-Gotu conservancies. The highlight of the teams' deployment during this month was the recovery of all the six calves stolen in Mlango, the destruction of four active illegal charcoal burning kilns in Leparua and attending to a livestock theft incident where 142 goats were stolen from a truck around Mlima tatu area of Sera Conservancy.

During the period between August and December, the team carried out routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Kisima Hamsini, Lontana, Moto, Lekilash and Losesia areas of Sera Conservancy, Sabarwawa, Sukumao, Kom Durte, Kuro Barata, Kurumume, Barambate, Nyatich and Kom areas of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, Boji Dera and Shaba areas of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy, Ndonyo Nashipa area of Nasuulu Conservancy, Mlango area of Leparua Conservancy and Barchuma and Turgung areas of Melako Conservancy.

The highlight of the team's deployment during the month of August was the recovery of the six camels stolen around Lekilash area of Sera Conservancy and the thwarting of two intended livestock theft cases in Tamampurr and Ndakapor areas of Sera Conservancy.

The highlight of the team's deployment during the month of September was the recovery of four camels stolen around Kulu area in Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy.

In October, the teams' patrol attended to a carcass of a male adult elephant whose cause of death was unknown and had the tusks intact. The team removed the tusks and handed them over to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) offices in Sere Olipi for safe custody. They also followed up on seven livestock theft incidences that occurred on different dates within the month.

There was minimal deployment of the teams during the month of November because of their



engagement in the joint tactical refresher training/exercise involving multiple mobile anti-poaching teams (9-0, 9-1, 9-2, 9-4 and 9-5) with joint assets including air support (fixed wing and rotor) to simulate joint team responses to large incidences. The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month was the recovery of all the livestock stolen during the two theft incidents that they attended to in November.

The highlight of the teams' patrol in December was the recovery of the two camels stolen around Mlango area and attending to a road banditry incident around Mlima Tatu area of Sera Conservancy.

### **Recoveries:**

The rapid response and intensified patrols by the NRT 9-1 and 9-2 teams during the reporting period led to the recovery of 15 out of the 20 stolen camels in Naishamunye and Lolkanjau areas and a G-3 rifle in Kirish during the month of January; the recovery of 65 out of the 156 stolen goats in Kiambogo during the month of February and the recovery of all the nine cows stolen during a road banditry incident in Merile and a piece of broken ivory recovered during the month of March and April respectively.

The teams' response also led to the recovery of five of the 15 stolen camels in Gotu during the month of May, 112 out 200 goats stolen in Naibung'a and all the 50 camels stolen in Merile during the month of June.

In the month of July, the team's efforts led to the recovery of the six camels stolen around Mlango area of Leparua Conservancy.

110 goats and four goats stolen around Mlango area were recovered on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of August respectively following the teams' effort.

In the month of September, the team helped in the recovery of four camels stolen in Kulu area of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy.

During the month of October, the teams' effort led to the recovery of three cows stolen in Maili Tano area, 500 goats stolen in Lbaa Oibor area of Lekurruki Conservancy, three camels stolen along Ngare Ndare river, 29 camels stolen around Biliqo Boji area of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy and 20 goats stolen around Lekilash area of Sera Conservancy.

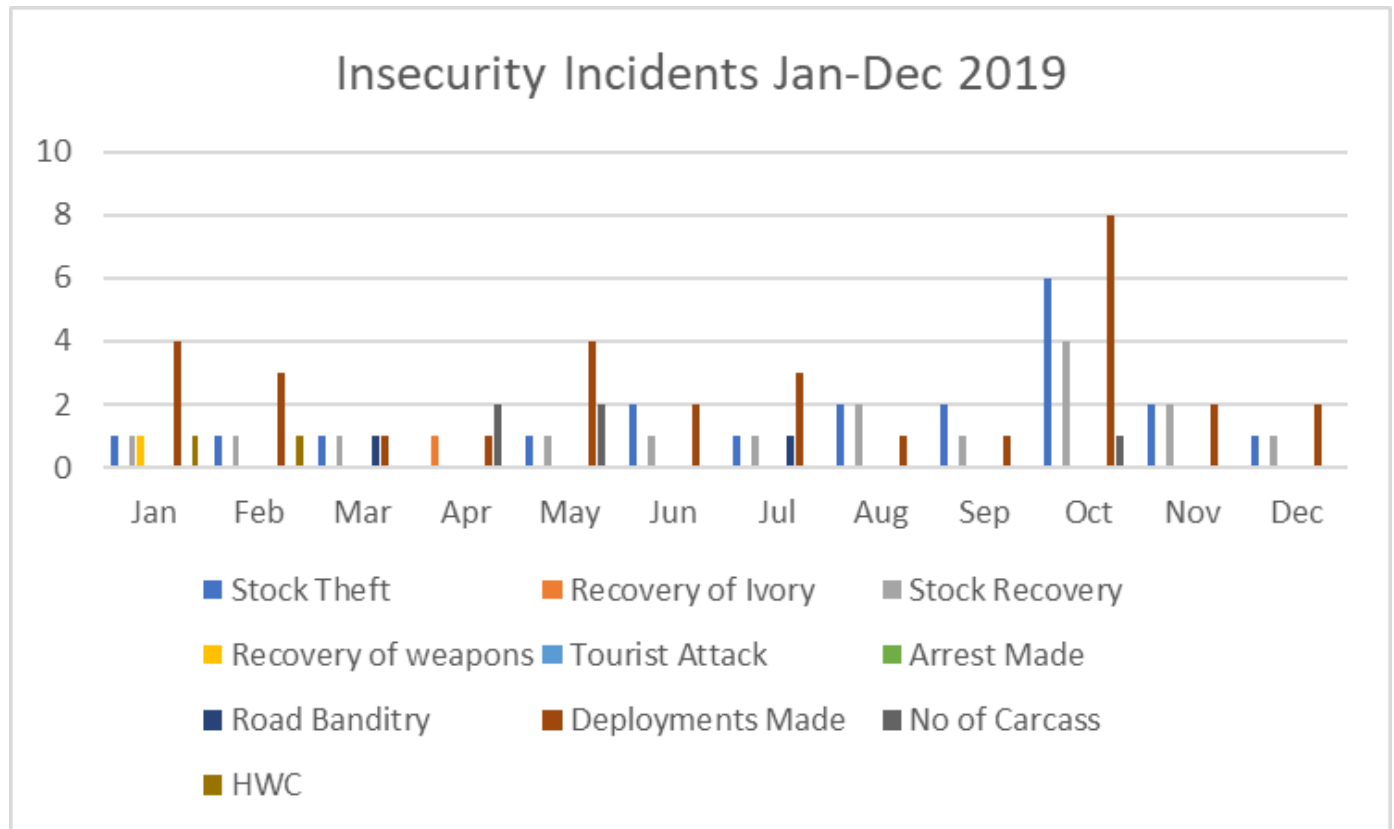
The teams' effort also led to the recovery of 34 cows stolen in Nadung'oru area of Lekurruki Conservancy in November and one camel stolen around Mlango area of Leparua Conservancy in December.

### **Arrests made:**

During the recovery incidents reported the culprits fled after abandoning the stolen livestock and weapons and therefore no arrests were made during this reporting period.

### Road banditry:

The continued presence and effective patrols by the NRT 9-1 and 9-2 teams helped to curb road banditry in an area that was previously prone to these incidents. There was one road banditry incident during the month of March where a lorry hired by Northern Rangelands Trust Trading (NRTT) to transport cows from Jaldesa Conservancy to Lewa was attacked by armed bandits along Laisamis-Merile road and nine cows stolen from the truck. During the attack, the driver of the lorry lost control and the truck overturned. One of the occupants died during this process. The NRT 9-1 mobile team assisted by the General Service Unit from Merile were deployed on a follow up to the incident and recovered the nine cows, however no arrests were made. In the month of December, the teams' quick response to a road banditry incident where four armed bandits shot at a Landcruiser vehicle around Mlima Tatu area of Sera Conservancy and punctured the vehicle's front tyre thwarted the intended theft when the bandits fled and no casualties reported.





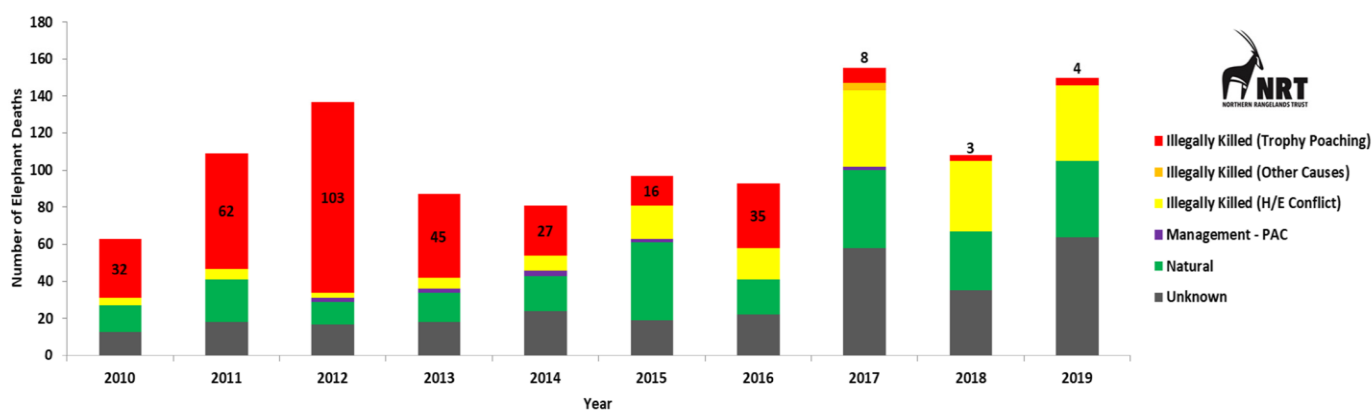
### Elephant mortality:

1. The total number of elephant deaths in NRT Conservancies during this reporting period (2019) was 150.
2. It is noted that deaths by unknown causes (n=64) were the highest followed by human elephant conflict (n=41) and natural causes (n=41). Only four cases of poaching were reported during the year, (n=2) in Namunyak, (n=1) in Biliqo Bulesa and (n=1) in Lekurruki.
3. The PIKE (Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) for NRT Conservancies (Laikipia, Meru, Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit Counties) during the period between January and December 2019 was 30%, down from 38% in the same period for the year 2018. The results and trends are outlined in the table and charts below and demonstrate a progressive declining trend over time.

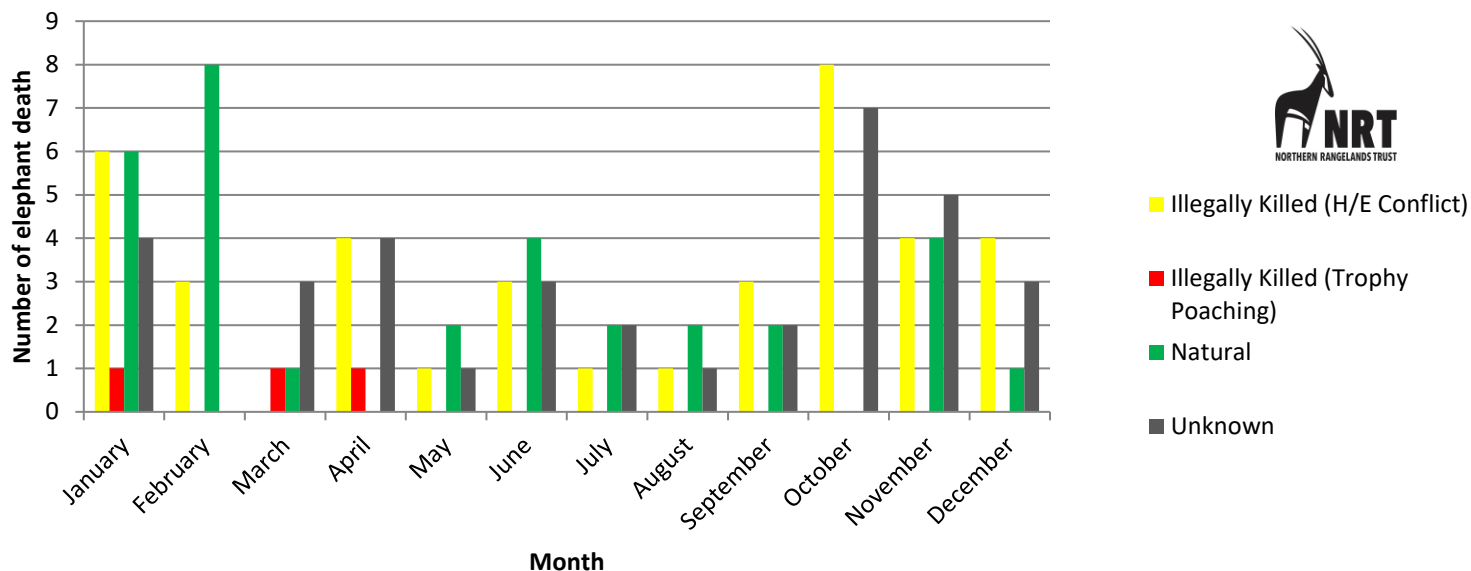
### Elephant mortality cases by cause of death in 2019.

Month	Illegally Killed - Conflict	Illegally Killed - Poaching	Natural	Unknown	Grand Total	PIKE
January	2		2	6	10	20
February	3		6	8	17	18
March	5	2	3	6	16	44
April	2		5	6	13	15
May	5		5	6	16	31
June	2			4	6	33
July	6		4	6	16	38
August	5		6	10	21	24
September	5		4	2	11	45
October	3	1	3	4	11	36
November	0	1	2	1	4	25
December	3		1	5	9	33
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>30</b>

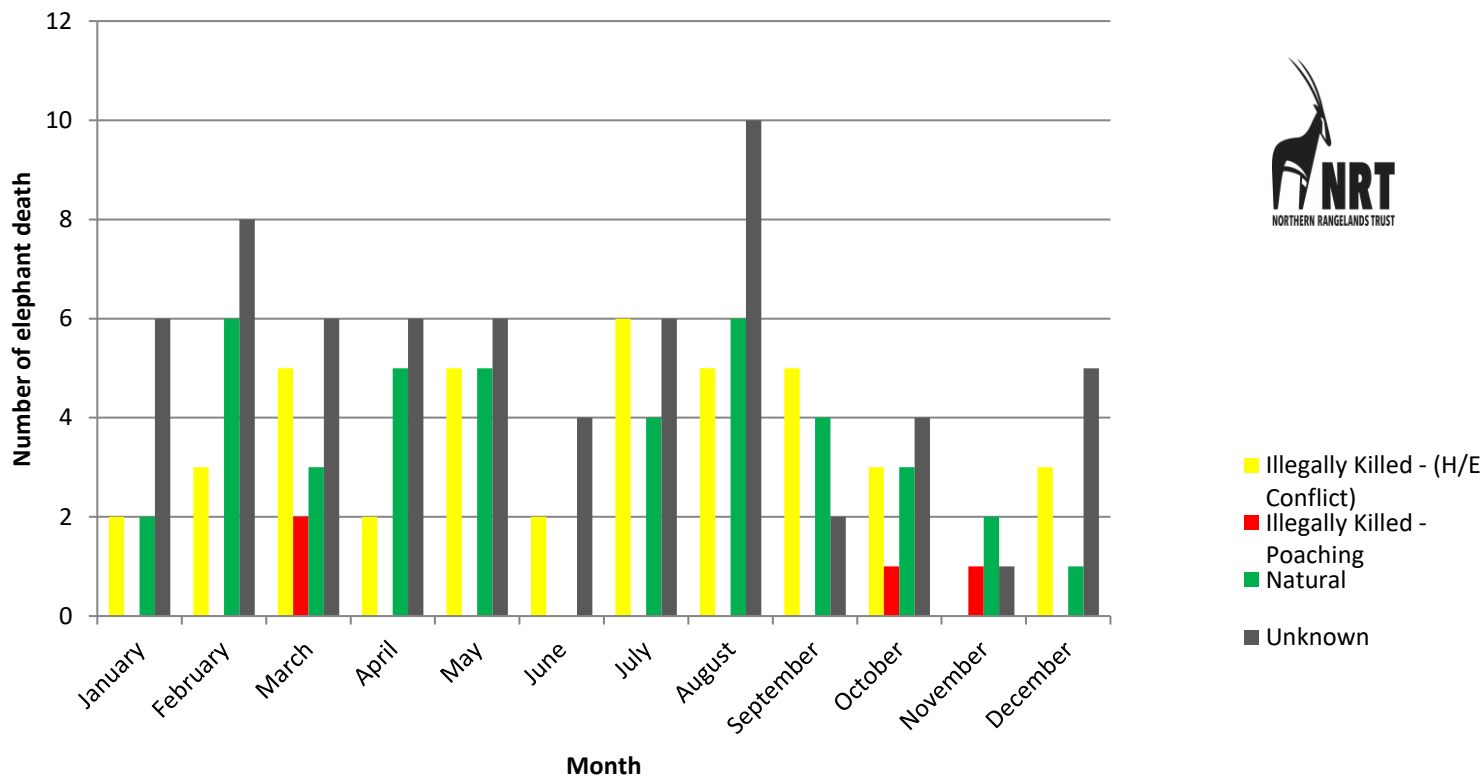
Elephant Mortality by Cause of Death in NRT Member Conservancies between 2010 to 2019



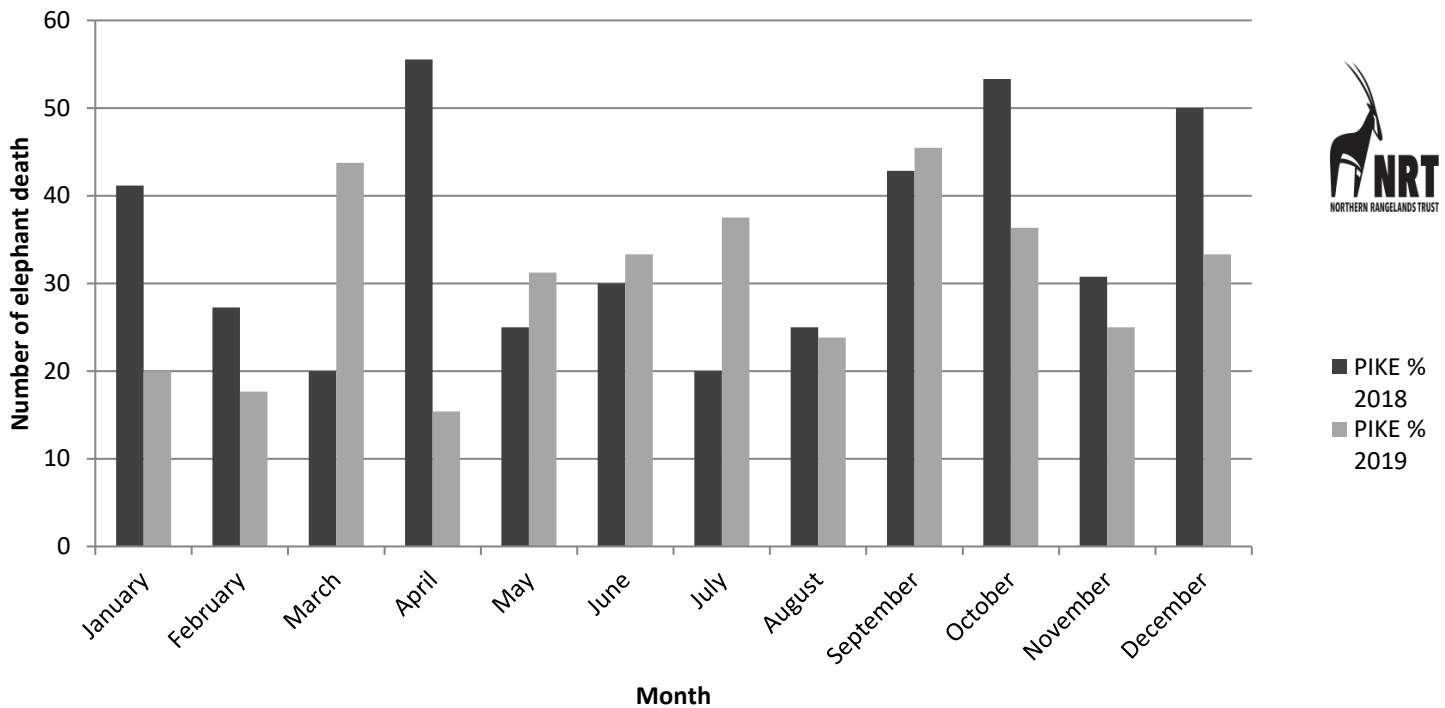
## Elephant Mortality in NRT Member Conservancies in 2018 by Cause of Death



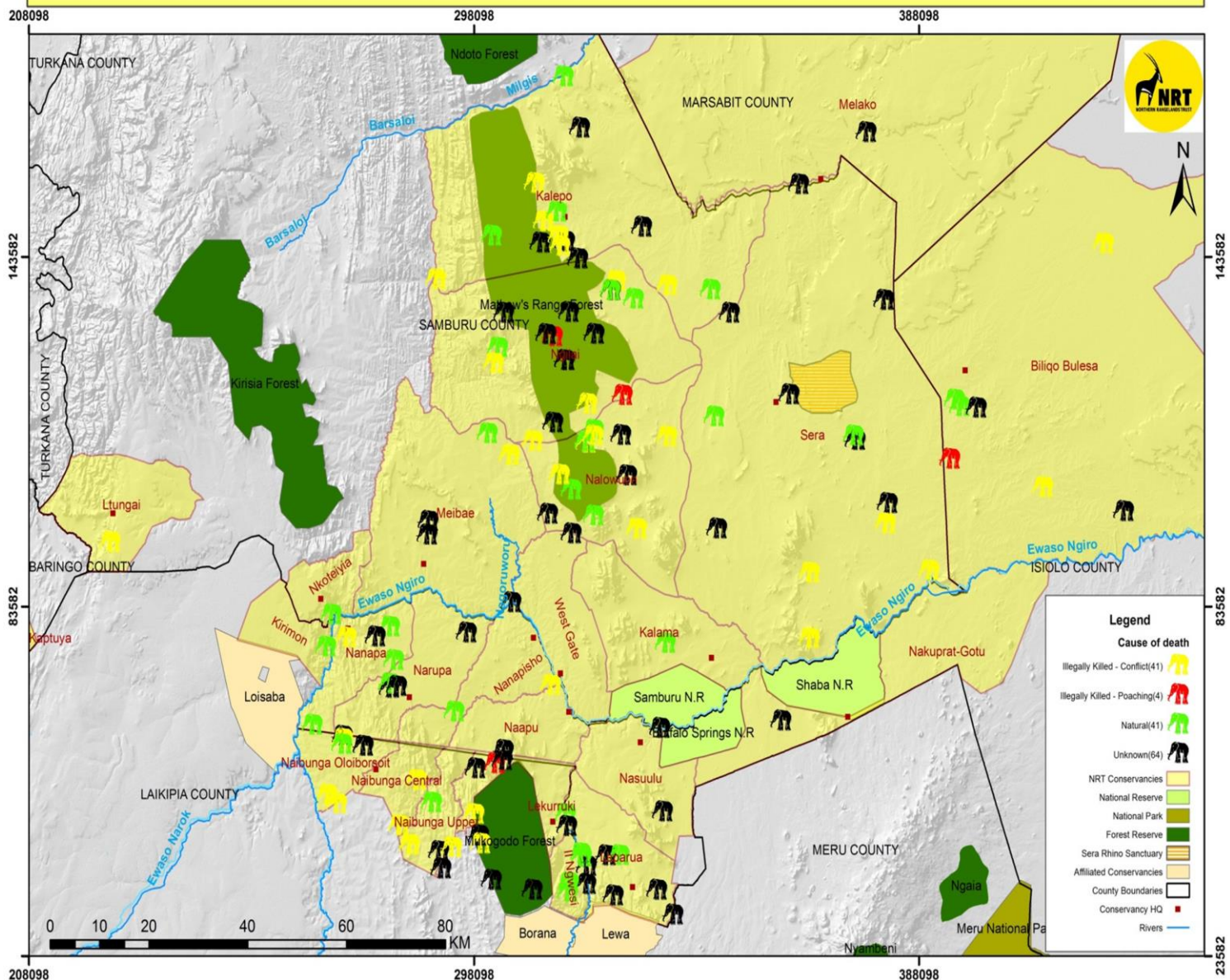
## Elephant Mortality in NRT Member Conservancies in 2019 by Cause of Death



## Comparison of the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE%) in NRT Member Conservancies between 2018 and 2019



# NRT CONSERVANCIES ELEPHANT MORTALITY 2019 BY CAUSE OF DEATH



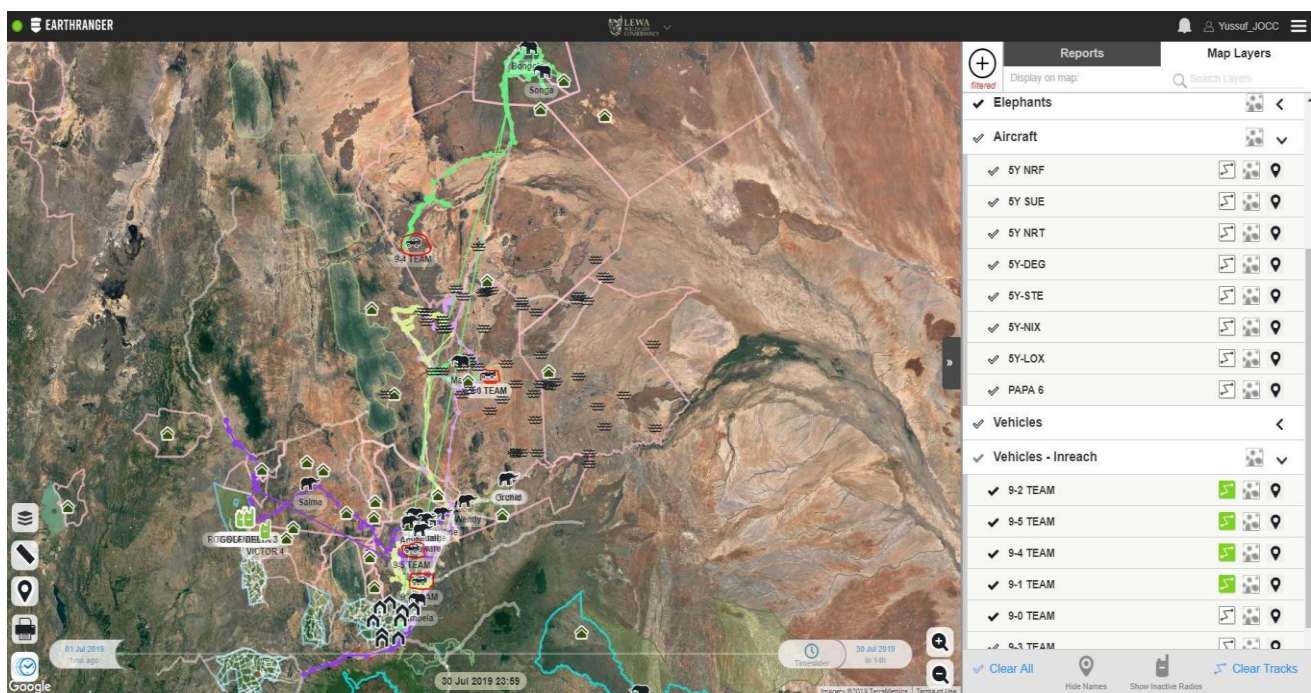


Elephants are migratory in nature and therefore move in and out of community conservancies. There are incidences where elephants are shot in non-conservancy areas and end up dying within conservancy areas. Livestock within the landscape equally move from non-conservancy areas to conservancy areas and vice versa in search of water and pasture. Human elephant conflict mainly occurs at water points where elephants and livestock converge in search of water. Many herders, especially from the non-conservancy areas who have no conservation knowledge and also possess illegal firearms sometimes shoot or spear elephants in self-protection or retaliation.

During the last quarter of the year, the area under the teams' coverage received considerable rainfall, unlike the previous two quarters of the year which did not receive enough rainfall and therefore enough water and pasture for both livestock and wildlife. Further, sufficient pasture and water for both livestock and wildlife reduced conflict over their potential convergence at watering points and subsequently reduced cases of human elephant conflict reported during the last quarter of the year.

Human elephant conflict is being addressed by increased community engagement through conservation awareness meetings, settlement realignment away from elephant migratory corridors, provision of water for livestock away from these corridors and concerted law enforcement efforts by different security agencies.

The human elephant conflict consolation fund piloted in Namunyak conservancy in 2018 has greatly helped to reduce cases of human elephant conflict. The NRT 9-1 and 9-2 teams' continued interaction with community members during patrols and information to community members on elephant movement and conservation has equally helped to address cases of human elephant conflict and enhanced their appreciation on the importance of wildlife living amongst them.



**Map showing the monthly movement of the teams and elephants from satellite tracker**

### Community conservation awareness:

NRT's close working relationship with community conservancies has had a significant impact on conservation awareness creation amongst the community members. Community members now appreciate the importance of wildlife living amongst them and subsequently there has been improved information flow through the provision of information to conservancy rangers, the NRT 9-1 and 9-2 mobile teams and other government security agencies which has led to successful recoveries of livestock, weapons and equally helped to reduce poaching incidents.

The teams' interaction with community members during their routine patrols helps to create conservation awareness through information sharing on the importance of wildlife living amongst them.

Community run projects like the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and the Sera Rhino Sanctuary have also helped in enhancing conservation awareness as evidenced by cases of elephant calves rescued through information provided by community members.

Conservation leverage through community tourism income which goes towards supporting conservation and improving community livelihood has also helped to enhance conservation awareness because community members are now able to link their improved livelihood to tourism income which is supported by improved security and increasing wildlife numbers.

Conservancy grazing committees have helped the community members to plan their grazing, realign their settlement and improve their rangeland to ensure human wildlife conflict is addressed and there is sufficient pasture for livestock and wildlife.

Community and school visits to successful community run projects like Reteti Elephant Sanctuary and Sera Rhino Sanctuary have also helped to enhance community conservation awareness.

### Conservation Outcomes:

- Effective security patrols and rapid response from the anti-poaching teams reducing elephant poaching in the region
- NRT 9-1 and 9-2 mobile teams' interaction with community members during patrols and the sharing of elephant movement and conservation awareness information has increased community awareness on wildlife conservation within and around community conservancies
- Improved information gathering and sharing on poachers and criminals by the community conservancies, KWS and the National Police Service
- Enhanced working relationship between the rapid response teams and government agencies; KWS and the National Police Service
- Conservation leverage through community tourism income that is ploughed back to conservation and community livelihood improvement

### Major Findings and Accomplishments:

- Increased community engagement and conservation awareness creation has contributed towards combating elephant poaching, livestock theft and road banditry through the sharing of information with conservancy rangers, NRT 9-1/9-2 mobile teams and relevant government security agencies
- Effective deployment of rapid response teams to potential poaching hotspots has been enhanced by continued use of GSM – GPS technology in monitoring and tracking movement of elephants in the Ewaso ecosystem
- Aerial support provided to the teams during response to anti-poaching, livestock theft and general insecurity has helped in successful recoveries and combating poaching
- The presence of Reteti Elephant Sanctuary within the landscape has provided a safe abode for rescued elephant calves and thus reduced elephant calves' deaths.

### Constraints:

During the first half of year 2019, the area under the NRT 9-1/9-2 teams' coverage didn't receive enough rainfall and subsequently, there was less water for livestock and wildlife. This led to cases of human elephant conflict where elephants and livestock converged at water points in search of water. The water scarcity also led to elephant calves falling into wells whilst searching for water.

The influx of armed herders with livestock from non-conservancy areas who have no knowledge of conservation contributed to some cases of human elephant conflict. Continued conservation awareness on this group of herders may be difficult because of their migratory nature.

Unlike the first half of the year which didn't receive enough rainfall, the last quarter of this reporting period received heavy rains which subsequently destroyed most of the roads rendering them impassible.

Response to some insecurity incidences in very remote areas is constrained by the terrain and bad roads.

The locust invasion along the landscape could result to loss of forage and thus affect wildlife and livestock.

### Results and Impact:

The PIKE (Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants) for NRT conservancies during the period between January and December 2019 was 30% down from 38% in the same period last year. The results show a declining trend occasioned by effective anti-poaching patrols and community awareness.

Increased conservation awareness among community members and intensified patrols by the mobile teams have contributed to the successful rescue of elephant calves.

Improved wildlife numbers and thus conservation leverage through increased community tourism income which is ploughed back to improve community livelihood projects

### Next step for the project:

- To enhance community engagement during routine patrols by carrying out conservation awareness sessions in order to address poaching and human wildlife conflict cases
- To continue to enhance the security for wildlife and people through effective collaboration with community conservancy, KWS rangers and other relevant security agencies
- To enhance conservation leverage through tourism so that the community tourism income can be ploughed back to support conservation, livelihood projects and conservancy sustainability.



### Human interest Story:

On 23 May 2019, community members in the Sere Olipi area came across an abandoned elephant calf near Sere Olipi primary school. The community members informed Sera Conservancy rangers, NRT 9-1/9-2 teams and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Sere Olipi outpost then went ahead and took care of the elephant calf before the combined team of NRT 9-1/9-2, KWS and the Reteti team took the calf safely to the Reteti Elephant Sanctuary. This action shows community appreciation and love for wildlife. In a further demonstration of this, community members now dig shallow wells for livestock and equally dig the same to provide water for wildlife.

### Organization Associated with the Project.

- Kenya Wildlife Service - protection of elephant and other wildlife species
- National Police Service - arrest and prosecution of crime suspects
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy - anti-poaching operation support
- Save The Elephants - elephant monitoring information
- NRT partner community conservancies

### List of Associated social media and Websites

The following social media frameworks and websites have been used to ensure communication and awareness about the program:

- [www.nrt-kenya.org](http://www.nrt-kenya.org)
- [www.retetielephants.org](http://www.retetielephants.org)
- Northern Rangelands Trust Facebook page
- Reteti Elephant Sanctuary Facebook page
- @NRT\_Kenya (Twitter handle)
- @RetetiElephants (Twitter handle)
- nrt\_kenya (Instagram page)

**Annex:**

- Annex 1: Financial Report
- Annex 2: Photos (These will be sent through Google We Transfer)
- Annex 3: Video Clip (We are trying to get this and will send it in as soon as it is available)

# Northern Rangeland Trust

Support of anti-poaching teams 9-1&9-2 NRT

January-December 2019

**Rate**

*USD*

## Income

Income from IEF

20,000.00

## **Total income**

**20,000.00**

## Expenditure

Administration costs

523.91

Communication

7,700.06

Staff costs

8,118.23

Vehicle running costs

3,657.89

**20,000.09**



