



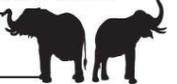
## **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT FOUNDATION – FY 2020**

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

Period: 1 January to 31 December 2020

Name of investigators: Ian Craig, Director of Conservation

Project starting date: 1 January 2020; Anticipated Completion Date: 31 December 2020

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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 annual report to the International Elephant Foundation focuses on activities of the NRT 9-1 and 9-2 mobile teams as a representation of how the financial support awarded by the Foundation directly translates to effective ongoing activities on the ground. This report provides an overview of the team's activities towards elephant protection, general insecurity including training and outlines specific incidences that the teams attended to during the period between January and December 2020.

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. Unlike the previous period, the team, during this the first half of this year changed their mode of operation by maintaining minimal/necessary contact with community members because of the COVID-19 situation. However, the team was still able to carry out their activities effectively in a well-coordinated manner as evidenced in their response to various insecurity incidences.

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 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.

During this reporting period, the patrol area under the team's coverage was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due the closure of livestock markets by the government during the first half of the year to mitigate the spreading of the Corona virus which resulted to an upsurge in livestock theft cases. Some of the government security agencies were more engaged in enforcing the government guidelines and controlling the spreading of the Corona virus. The government security agencies diverted attention and the closure of livestock markets led to an upsurge of insecurity incidences and therefore more work for the team. Livestock keeping and trading is the main economic mainstay of the community and therefore the closure of the livestock markets had economic ramification on the community.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact on the livelihood of the community despite the government easing out during the second half of the year some of the restrictions imposed to mitigate the spread of the Corona virus. This insignificant reduction on the impact of the pandemic to the community livelihood led to the upsurge of livestock theft cases.

Despite the prevailing COVID-19 conditions, the 9-1 and 9-2 teams were still able to carry out their activities effectively and in a well-coordinated manner as evidenced by the following actions:-

## Deployments:

During the months of January and February, the teams carried out routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Moto, Kisima Hamsini, Mlima Tatu, Naipaipai and Losesia areas of Sera Conservancy, Sabarwawa, Nyatich, Kulu, Kuro, Bula Duka, Kurobisanowo, Chimpire and Kom areas of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, Koya, Parchuma, Lenailon, Noongishu, Ntabas Mooga and Langata Elkunono areas of Melako Conservancy, Ndonyo Nasarge, Lenturoto and Mawe Mbili areas of Leparua Conservancy, Mlango, Hotel 5 and Ndonyo Nasipa areas of Nasuulu Conservancy, and Boji Dera, Jajab, Kuromone, Kuro Burat, Kachuru and Kolua areas of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy.

The highlight of their patrol during the months of January and February was the recovery of **313** goats stolen during the Shafargarfasa livestock theft incident, **100** goats stolen during the Daaba incident, **24** cows stolen in transit to Nairobi from Moyale, **13** cows stolen in Arjiju area, **26** cows stolen in Naturbi gate and the rescue of a two-week-old **elephant calf** around Kisima Hamsini. All the recovered livestock were handed back to the owners and the rescued elephant calf taken to Reteti Elephant Sanctuary.

In the month of March, the teams patrolled Koya, Ntabas Mooga, Moile and Parchuma areas of Melako Conservancy, Mbarambate and Boji Dera areas of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy, Mlango, Mawe Mbili, Tangi Kavu and Lepororong areas of Leparua Conservancy, Ndonyo Nasipa and Hotel 5 areas of Nasuulu Conservancy, Joy's Camp, Kora and Lopingare areas of Shaba National reserve, Nongunono, Losesia and Namparpar areas of Sera Conservancy and Sapache and Lolkarkar areas of Namunyak Conservancy. The highlight of their patrols during this month was helping to put out a bush fire in Melako Conservancy, destruction of illegal charcoal burning kilns around Burat area of Leparua Conservancy, and the recovery of intact elephant tusks from an elephant killed in a conflict incident. The recovered tusks were handed over to Kenya Wildlife Service for safe custody.

During the period between April and June, the teams carried out routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Madogorbahuka, Babala, Kulu, Kom, Nyatich, Dogo Kicha, Dire and Serelparua areas of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, Parchuma area of Melako conservancy, Losesia, Turgung, Lantana, Kisima Hamsini, Naipaipai, Moto and Mpirish areas of Sera conservancy, Joy's camp area of Shaba National reserve, Naoyatira, Hotel 5 and Lowangishu areas of Nasuulu Conservancy and Kaluo and Elat areas of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy.

The highlight of the teams' patrols during the month of April was the recovery with aerial support of **62** cows, **27** goats and one donkey stolen around Mugae area in Meru County. The recovered livestock was handed back to the owners.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of May was the recovery of **12** cows stolen around Gambela, helping to put out a bush fire around Nashapa area of Sera Conservancy and the destruction of 15 illegal charcoal burning kilns around Naoyatira area of Lowangishu in Nasuulu Conservancy. The recovered cows were handed back to the owners.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of June was the recovery of **12** cows stolen around Manyatta Zebra in Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy, helping the community members to find a lost child in Nasuulu Conservancy, the recovery of five(**5**) camels stolen around Lowangu area, the recovery of **52** cows stolen around Leragai of Il Ngwesi Conservancy and the finding of **30** lost camels in Koya. The lost child was re united with the family while all the recovered livestock was handed back to the owners.

During the period between July and September the teams carried out routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Turgung, Koya and Pejelo areas of Melako Conservancy, Losesia, Lantana, Kisima Hamsini, Motto, Lekilash and Mlima Tatu areas of Sera Conservancy, Lolkuniyani, Ngilai Wamba, Ngolngoltim, Ntaparani, Reteti and Nkii areas of Namunyak Conservancy, Madogorbahuka, Kom, Sabarwawa, Ntorobo, Babala, Machesa, Kuro, Kulu, and Aredida areas of Biliqo Bulesa Conservancy, Boji Dera, Gotu, Jajab, Magado, Arogot, Daaba, Shaab, Ndomoru, Robinat, Funan and Lopirngare areas of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy, Mlango, Ndonyo Nasipa and Hotel 5 area of Nasuulu Conservancy, Kipsing area of Oldonyiro Conservancy and Daraja ya Mungu area of Kalama Conservancy.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of July was the recovery of **13** camels out of the 20 stolen around Buchesa area of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, the rescue of an elephant calf that had fallen in a well around Kisima Hamsini area of Sera Conservancy, the recovery of **10** out of the 15 camels stolen around Kom area, the recovery of all the **200** goats stolen around Madogorbahuka area of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, the recovery of **16** out of the 22 camels stolen around Madogorbahuka area, and the recovery of **74** cows stolen around Tura area of Naibung'a Conservancy. All the recovered livestock were handed back to their owners and the rescued elephant calf was taken to Reteti Elephant Sanctuary.

The highlight of the team's deployment during the month of August was the recovery of **17** out of the 29 cows stolen around Tigania area of Meru County.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of September was the recovery of all the **50** goats stolen around Kimanjo area of Naibung'a Conservancy, the recovery of all the **10** camels stolen around Shaba area of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy and the recovery of **102** out of the 107 goats stolen around Losesia area of Sera Conservancy.

During the period between October and December, the team carried routine security and anti-poaching patrols along Parchuma, Gudas, Koya and Pejelo areas of Melako Conservancy, Lantana, Kisima Hamsini, Turgung, Lowamara, Namparpar and Motto areas of Sera Conservancy, Sabarwawa, Mbarambate, Babala and Kulu areas of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy and Gotu, Funan, Joy's Camp, Lowangu, Robinat and Kolua areas of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of October was the recovery of the **47** out of 70 sheep stolen around Nasarge area, the recovery of all the **145** goats stolen around Ndumuru area, the recovery of all the 39 camels stolen around Mlima Tatu area, the recovery of **168** out of 310 goats stolen around Gotu area, the recovery of all the **102** goats stolen around Gotu area and the destruction of 20 active charcoal kilns around Mlango, Lenturoto Ndonyo-

Elelukumani and Lowangishu areas of Nasuulu Conservancy.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of November was the recovery of the **120** camels stolen around Hawaye area of Shurr Conservancy, the recovery of all the **80** goats stolen around Soit Oudo area of Naibung'a Conservancy and attending to two elephant carcass cases around Kinya and Mutumi areas.

The highlight of the teams' deployment during the month of December was the recovery of the **1000** goats stolen around Lowuangu area of Nakuprat-Gotu 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 **313** goats stolen during the Shafargarfasa incident, **100** goats in Daaba, **24** cows in transit to Nairobi from Moyale, **13** cows stolen in Arjiju and **26** cows stolen around Naturbi gate during the month of January and February.

In the month of April, the teams' efforts led to the recovery of **62** cows, **27** goats and **1** donkey stolen around Mugae area in Meru County.

In the month of May, the team's efforts led to the recovery of **12** cows stolen in Gambela area. During the month of June, the teams' effort led to the recovery of **12** cows stolen around Manyatta Zebra, five (**5**) camels around Lowangu, **52** cows and three camels stolen Leragai area and **30** camels lost around Koya area.

During the month of July, the team's patrol effort led to the recovery of **13** camels out of the 20 stolen around Buchesa area of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, **10** out of the 15 camels stolen around Kom area, all the **200** goats stolen around Madogorbahuka area of Biliqo-Bulesa Conservancy, **16** out of the 22 camels stolen around Madogorbahuka area, and **74** cows stolen around Tura area of Naibung'a Conservancy.

In the month of August, the teams' patrol effort led to the recovery of **17** out of the 29 cows stolen around Tigania area of Meru County.

In the month of September, the teams' patrol effort led to the recovery of all the **50** goats stolen around Kimanjo area of Naibung'a Conservancy, **10** camels stolen around Shaba area of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy and **102** out of the 107 goats stolen around Losesia area of Sera Conservancy.

During the month of October, the team's patrol effort led to the recovery **47** out of 70 sheep stolen around Nasarge area, **145** goats stolen around Ndumuru area, **39** camels stolen around Mlima Tatu area, **168** out of 310 goats stolen around Gotu area and all the **102** goats stolen around Gotu area.

In the month of November, the teams' patrol effort led to the recovery of the **120** camels stolen around Hawaye area of Shurr Conservancy and all the **80** goats stolen around Soit Oudo area of Naibung'a Conservancy.

During the month of December, the teams' patrol effort led to the recovery of all the **1000** goats stolen around Lowuangu area of Nakuprat-Gotu Conservancy.

The team also recovered eight elephant tusks found intact from carcasses attended to and handed them over to Kenya WildlifeService for safe custody.

### **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 thwart road banditry incidences in an area that was previously prone to these incidents. There was one road banditry incident during the month of January where 24 cows were stolen from a truck in transit to Nairobi from Moyale but all the stolen cows were recovered and handed back to the owners.

In the month of March, a lorry transporting 19 camels to Nairobi from Marsabit was stopped by gunmen who offloaded 15 camels and fled towards Tirgamo area. No recovery/arrest was made.

During the same month a lorry transporting cows was stopped by gunmen who offloaded 11 cows and disappeared into the bush. No recovery/arrest was made.

In the month of June armed bandits shot at a trailer around Mlima Tatu area but fled in panic when they realized that the 9-1 team was around that area. The trailer veered off the road but there was no injury nor items stolen.

In the month of August unknown armed bandits attacked a vehicle heading to Noolotoro area from Wamba around Marmanoi area and killed the driver. The 9-1 team with assistance of the canine unit was deployed to follow up on the incident but lost track of the suspects footmarks because of the high concentration of human activities around that area.

### **Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE)**

NRT conservancies have participated in the Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) program with consistent data collection since 2008. The MIKE program was established in 2002 under CITES and the Laikipia-Samburu MIKE site is one of four sites that have contributed information on Kenya's status on elephant deaths. MIKE evaluates relative poaching levels based on the Proportion of Illegally Killed Elephants (PIKE), which is calculated as the number of illegally killed elephants (poaching + conflict) found divided by the total number of elephant carcasses encountered by patrols or other means.

Data from NRT member conservancies are collected and shared with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and field data is harmonized for Laikipia Samburu MIKE site every three months. The trend of PIKE has changed over time, with reduction of illegally killed elephants (especially trophy poaching) since 2012. In Samburu, a PIKE of over 54% is likely to mean that the population is not sustaining itself (STE 2019), i.e., above this figure the population will cause the population to decline.

Trophy poaching in the NRT landscape peaked in 2012 with more than 100 elephants being killed for ivory across Laikipia, Isiolo and Samburu in one year. However, with the establishment of the NRT mobile security to support highly motivated conservancy rangers, poaching was brought down to manageable levels. 2018 and 2019 had the lowest number of poached elephants in the landscape since monitoring began. However, the killing of elephant in human wildlife conflict has increased in the past three years, and conflict killing is now one of the highest causes of death of elephant in the NRT landscape.

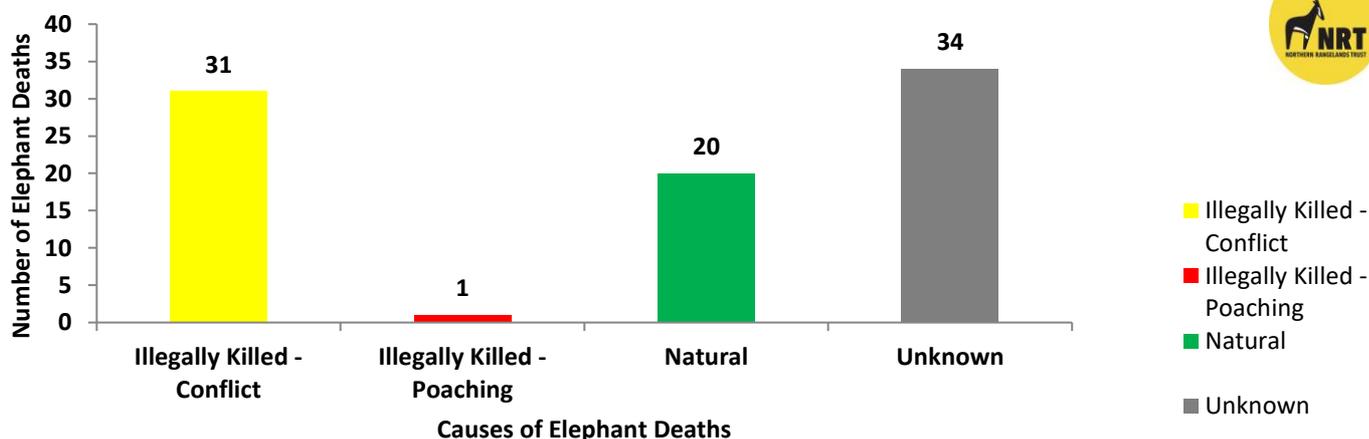
### Elephant mortality:

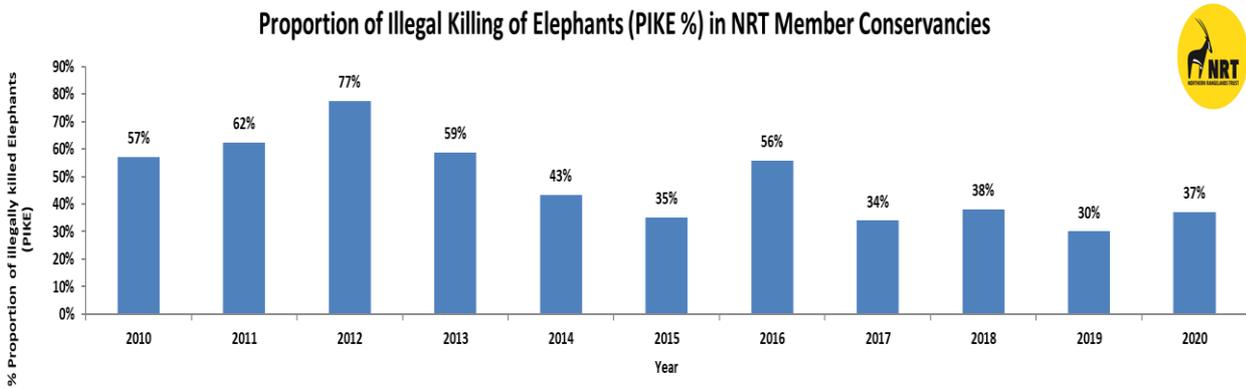
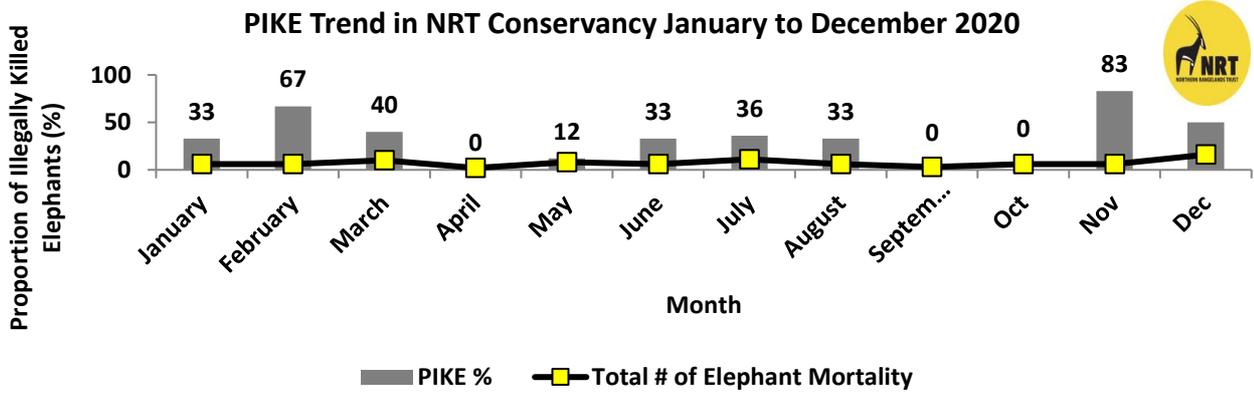
1. The total number of elephant deaths in NRT Conservancies during this reporting period (Janto December 2020) was 86 down from 150 during a similar period last year.
2. It is noted that deaths by unknown causes (n=34) were the highest followed by human elephant conflict (n=31) and natural causes(n=20). Only one case of poaching was reported during the reporting period in Namunyak Conservancy.
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 2020 was 37%, up from 30% in the same period for the year 2019. Difference in PIKE 2019 was lower than 2020 because there were more natural and unknown deaths in 2019 than 2020 which affected the proportion of illegally killed total number of elephants. 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 January to December 2020

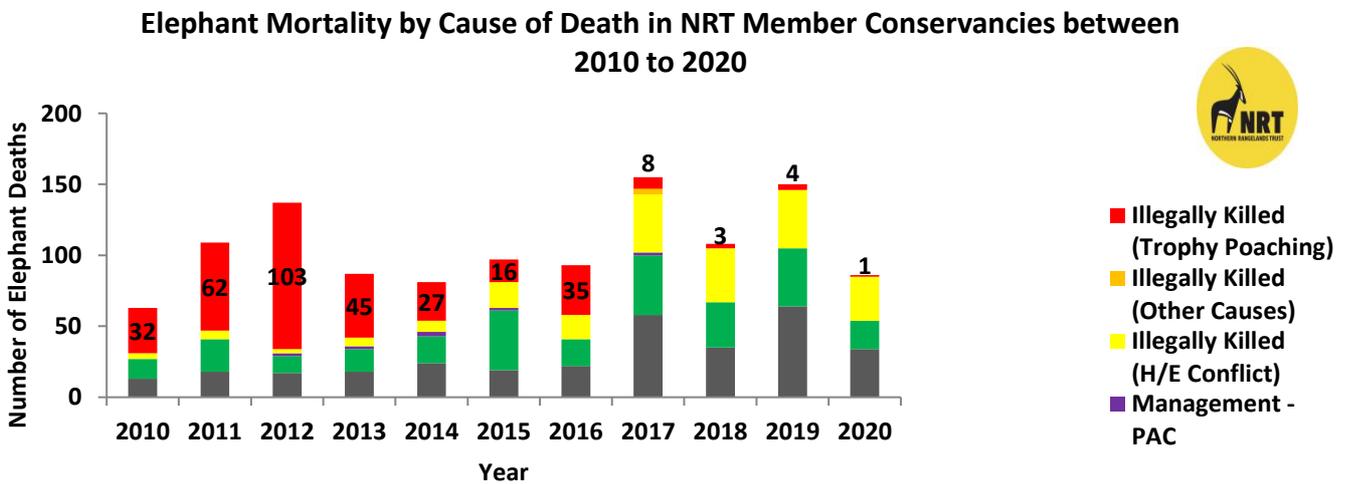
Month	Illegally Killed - Conflict	Illegally Killed - Poaching	Natural	Unknown	Grand Total	PIKE
January	1	1	2	2	6	33.33
February	4			2	6	66.67
March	4		3	3	10	40.00
April			1	1	2	0.00
May	1		1	6	8	12.50
June	2		1	3	6	33.33
July	4		2	5	11	36.36
August	2		4		6	33.33
September				3	3	0.00
October			3	3	6	0.00
November	5			1	6	83.33
December	8		3	5	16	50.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>37.21</b>

### Elephant Mortality in NRT Member Conservancies January to December 2020

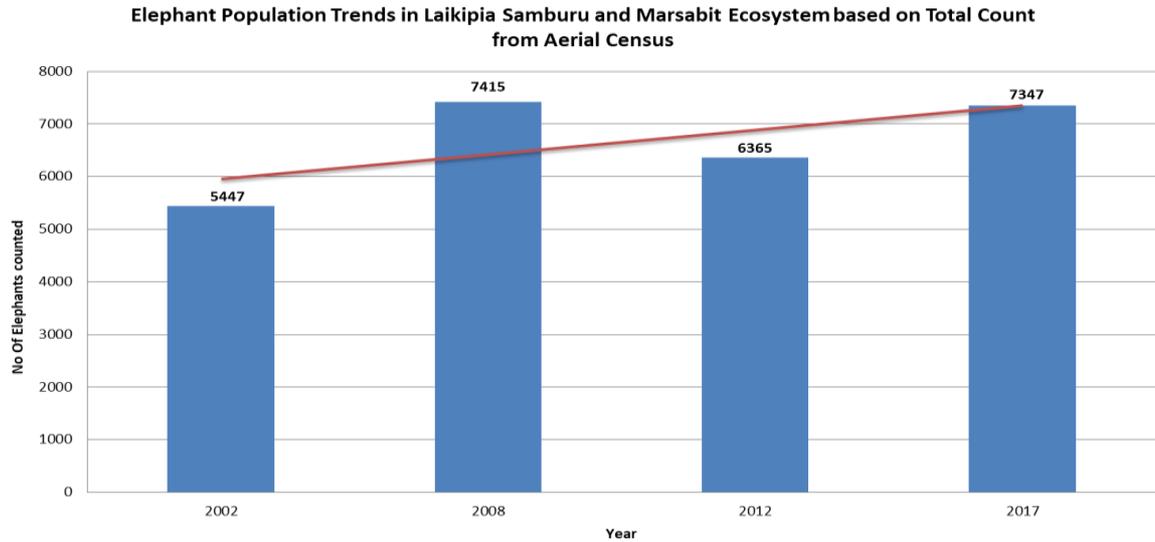




PIKE Trends in NRT Conservancies (Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit) between 2010 and 2020

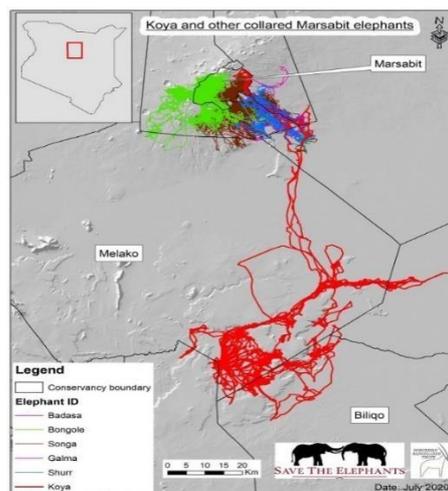
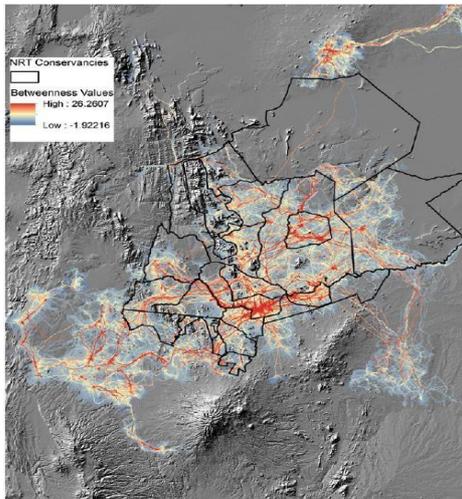






### Elephants Movement.

Save the Elephants (STE) have been conducting in-depth research on elephants in Samburu for the past 20 years. Part of their research has included collaring of almost 60 elephants with GPS collars to study their movements. In partnership with NRT, 40 elephants were collared between 2014 and 2019 with a specific view to study the impact of conservancies in expanding safe range for elephants and identifying critical corridors in the landscape that must be conserved. Elephant corridors linking Samburu and Marsabit and Isiolo and Meru have been identified from the tracking data, providing important evidence on the need to protect these corridors in future. The information from the collaring has been used in the gazettement of wildlife corridors and dispersal areas.

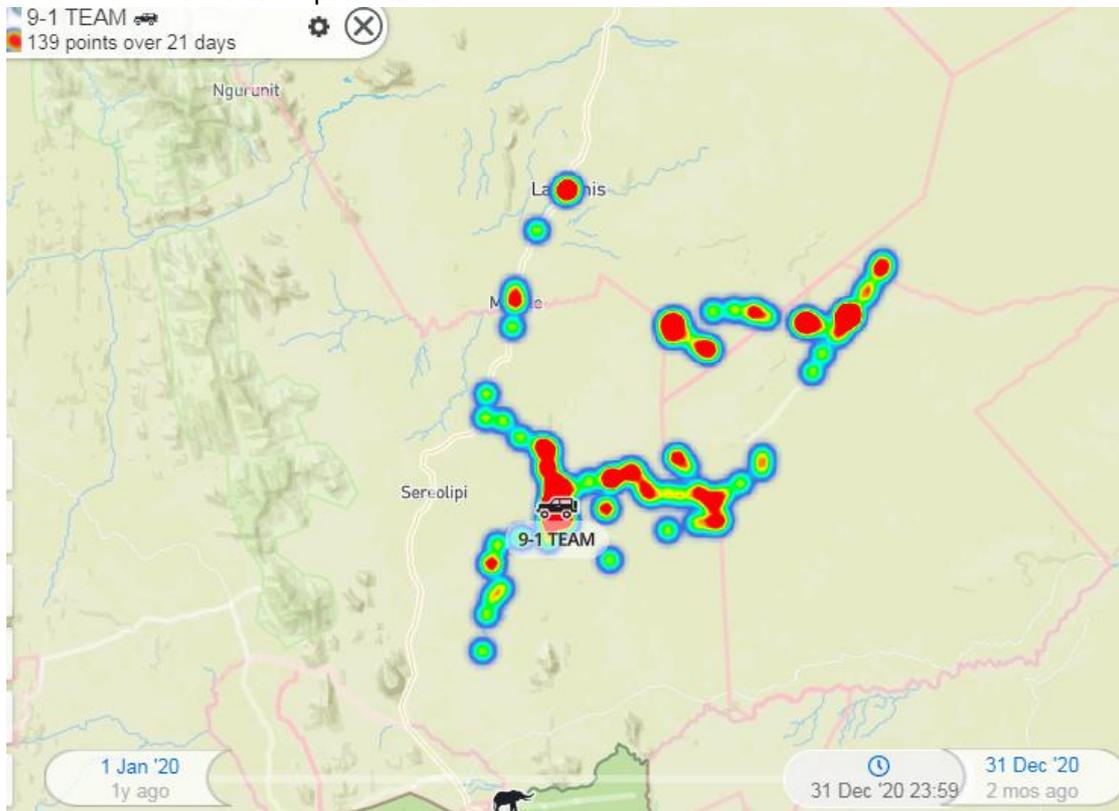


**Fig 1 Satellite imagery of elephant corridors Fig 2 Movement of Koya's Herd**

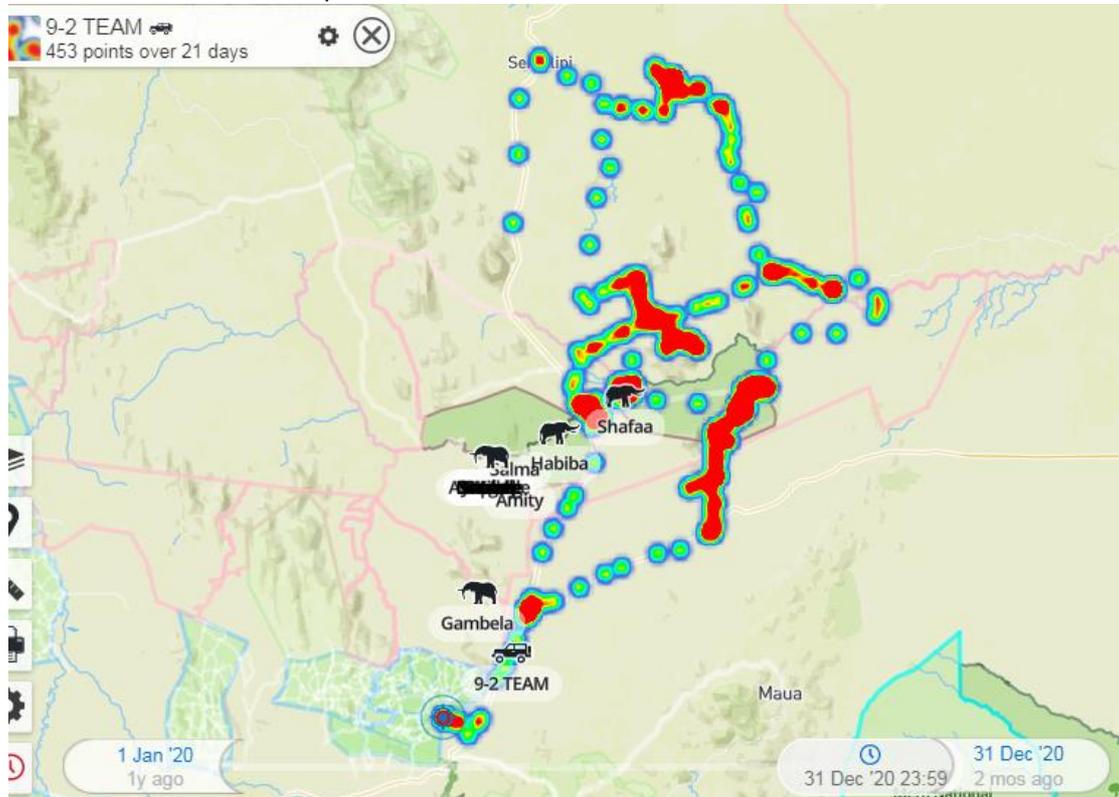
The images above indicate elephant movement along the corridors within the NRT conservancies. The connection between Samburu/Laikipia elephants and Marsabit elephants has been dormant for the last 30 years Fig 1). However, a female elephant named Koya on the right( fig 2),made a 77km trek with her family of 9 in 2019, suggesting that the elephants are starting to feel safe, an indication of the impact the community conservancies have had for the conservation and protection of wildlife. The only other recorded movement along this route was in 2008 of a bull elephant named Shadrack who made the reverse movement from Marsabit to Biliqo.

Female elephants travel with their young, making them risk averse, and therefore Koya's decision to make the journey is significant on safety and security of elephants

### NRT 9-1 Mobile team patrol effort



### NRT 9-2 Mobile team patrol effort



### **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.

During this reporting period, there was reduced interaction and therefore minimal/necessary contact with community members because of the COVID-19 situation which in effect meant reduced community awareness sessions.

Because of the closure of schools and the government guidelines to mitigate the spread of Corona virus, there were no community/school visits to the sanctuary.

### **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:

- Maintained zero poaching of elephants and rhinos in NRT Conservancies over the reporting period
- 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 mobile anti-poaching 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. NRT has a fleet of three supercubs that support the teams in wildlife monitoring and security operations. Cumulatively the three supercubs did a total of 305 flying hours during the reporting period
- The Reteti Elephant Sanctuary, with support from NRT and the mobile teams, has rescued 10 orphaned elephant calves from within NRT Conservancies and now hosts 22 calves in their care at the sanctuary. The rewilding program has seen 10 calves being released back into Sera Rhino Sanctuary and all 10 are now living completely free lives with no human contact amongst wild elephants
- Deployment of the canine unit currently based out of Lewa to support the mobile teams in anti-poaching and rescue operations. An 8-year-old boy who got lost for 2 days in Nasuulu Conservancy was recovered by the 9-1, 9-2 and 9-5 mobile units with the assistance of the dogs in the unit in May 2020

### Constraints:

During this reporting period, the patrol area under the team's coverage was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of livestock markets by the government to mitigate the spreading of the Corona virus. Some government security agencies were more engaged in enforcing the government guidelines and controlling the spreading of the Corona virus. The government security agencies diverted attention and the closure of livestock markets led to an upsurge of insecurity incidences and therefore more work for the team. Livestock keeping and trading is the main economic mainstay of the community and therefore the closure of the livestock markets had economic ramifications on the community.

There were no visits to the sanctuary because of the COVID situation and therefore reduced tourism income/visit fees payable to the community.

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

### Results and Impact:

The total number of elephant deaths in NRT Conservancies during this reporting period (January to December 2020) was 86 down from 150 during a similar period last year.

Zero poaching of elephant and rhinos within the NRT conservancies landscape during the reporting period.

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 continue to enhance the security for wildlife and people through effective collaboration with community conservancies, KWS rangers and other relevant security agencies
- To enhance conservation leverage through tourism so that community tourism income can be ploughed back to support conservation, livelihood projects and conservancy sustainability

### Human interest Story:

**Stuck in the Mud – Bull Elephant Rescued in Nannapa Community Conservancy.** NRT staff, Nannapa Community Conservancy rangers, Loisaba Conservancy rangers, and the Kenya Wildlife Service worked together to rescue an elephant stuck in the mud in May. Herders spotted the 15-year-old bull in the mud and got the joint rescue mission going. It took many hands and many hours, but elephant walked away from his ordeal unharmed. [See it all on Instagram.](#)

On 6 June, an eight year old boy was reported missing in Nasuulu Conservancy. The NRT 9-1, 9-2 and 9-5, in response to a request for assistance by community members mounted a search with support from the canine unit and found the missing child after two days around Ashnil area of Buffalo springs game reserve and reunited him with his family.

### 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)

**Financial Report for the Period between January and December 2020**

Northern Rangeland Trust			
Support of anti-poaching teams 9-1&9-2 NRT			
January - December 2020			
<b>Rate</b>			
	<i>USD</i>		
<b>Income</b>			
Income from IEF	20,000.00		
<b>Total income</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>		
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Previous Period</b>	<b>Current Period</b>	<b>Cummulative</b>
Administration costs	17.41	3,112.60	3,130.01
Communication	5,163.94	4,160.07	9,324.01
Vehicle running costs	2,889.08	406.42	3,295.50
	<b>8,070.42</b>	<b>7,679.10</b>	<b>15,749.52</b>
<b>Balance</b>			<b>4,250.48</b>